THE

EDINBURGH MAGAZINE,

OR

LITERARY MISCELLANY,

FOR *MAY* 1801;

With a View of GARSCUBE, the Seat of the Right Hon. ILAY CAMPBELL, Lord Preſident of the Court of Seſſion.

From a Drawing taken upon the Spot, by Mr Denholm, of Glaſgow.

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State

State of the BAROMETER, in inches and decimals, and of Farenheit's THERMOMETER in the open air, taken in the morning before sun-rise, and at noon; and the quantity of rain-water fallen in inches and decimals, from April 26. to May 25. 1801, in the vicinity of Edinburgh.

1801.	Barom.	Thermom. M	Thermom. N.	Rain. In. Pts.	Weather.
April					
26	29.981	45	72	——	Clear
27	29.851	48	73	——	Ditto
28	29.761	52	69	——	Ditto
29	29.45	45	63	——	Ditto
30	29.321	42	64	——	Ditto
May 1	29.231	42	61	——	Ditto
2	29.71	45	59	——	Ditto
3	29.655	41	61	——	Ditto
4	29.711	44	64	——	Ditto
5	29.611	48	70	——	Ditto
6	29.4	50	59	——	Ditto
7	29.321	42	55	——	Cloudy
8	29.511	43	57	——	Ditto
9	29.655	45	44	——	Clear
10	29.611	44	53	——	Ditto
11	29.62	50	60	——	Ditto
12	29 51	44	56	0.05	Hail
13	29.752	43	51	0.0511	Rain
14	29.62	38	53	0.0601	Ditto
15	29.32	47	57	0.151	Ditto
16	29.43	48	51	0.0511	Ditto
17	29.431	47	53	0.182	Ditto
18	29.43	46	54	——	Cloudy
19	29.651	46	61	——	Clear
20	29.611	48	55	——	Ditto
21	29.5	52	63	——	Cloudy
22	29.491	54	70	——	Clear
23	29.551	58	62	1.01	Showers
24	29.631	57	60	——	Ditto
25	29.6	55	61	——	Cloudy

Quantity of Rain 0.5753

High Water at LEITH for JUNE 1801.

Days.	Morn. H. M.	Even. H. M.
M. 1.	7 22	7 47
T. 2.	8 12	8 35
W. 3.	8 58	9 20
Th. 4.	9 42	10 3
Fr. 5.	10 25	10 47
Sa. 6.	11 9	11 31
Su. 7.	11 54	——
M. 8.	0 17	0 41
T. 9.	1 5	1 30
W. 10.	1 55	2 21
Th. 11.	2 46	3 12
Fr. 12.	3 37	4 3
Sa. 13.	4 27	4 52
Su. 14.	5 15	5 39
M. 15.	6 1	6 24
T. 16.	6 45	7 6
W. 17.	7 26	7 47
Th. 18.	8 8	8 29
Fr. 19.	8 51	9 12
Sa. 20.	9 35	9 58
Su. 21.	10 23	10 48
M. 22.	11 16	11 45
T. 23.	——	0 16
W. 24.	0 47	1 21
Th. 25.	1 55	2 28
Fr. 26.	3 1	3 33
Sa. 27.	4 6	4 35
Su. 28.	5 5	5 32
M. 29.	5 59	6 23
T. 30.	6 48	7 11

MOON.

	D.	H.	M.	
Laſt Qrtr.	3.	2	54	Even
N. Moon	11.	8	19	Morn.
Firſt Qrtr.	19.	11	32	Morn.
Full Moon	26.	7	41	Even.

OBSERVATIONS:

June 4. Anniverſary of King George III. (aged 63.)

5. —— —— of Erneſt Auguſtus, Duke of Cumberland, the King's fifth ſon, (aged 30.)

24. Mid-ſummer.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW.

GARSCUBE, the ſeat of the Right Honourable Ilay Campbell, Lord Preſident of the Court of Seſſion, is ſituated in the pariſh of New Kilpatrick, and county of Dumbarton, about ſix miles north-weſt of the city of Glaſgow.

The houſe ſtands upon the weſt bank of the Kelvin, a river which riſes at the middle of the iſthmus betwixt the Forth and Clyde, and after ornamenting many beautiful ſeats, and running a courſe of about twenty miles, falls into the latter river, a few miles below Garſcube.

The preſent learned proprietor has built, within theſe few years, two wings to the houſe; theſe contain many ſpacious and elegant apartments, ſuitable to the dignified ſtation which his Lordſhip holds as chief magiſtrate of the country.

To the weſt of the houſe, the grounds riſe in the form of an amphitheatre, covered with wood, and incloſing a noble ſweep of the Kelvin. Many fine walks are cut upon the ſides of the aſcent, and in the moſt proper places are ſeats, from which the beſt view of the charming ſcenery around may be ſeen: but that view which ſtrikes above all others, and which, indeed, has ſcarcely its parallel in Scotland, is only obtained by aſcending the ſummit of the hill. Here, as far as the eye can reach to the weſt, is a beautiful ſtretch of country, watered by the Clyde, which meanders through it in many beautiful ſweeps, ſometimes loſing itſelf amongſt the diſtant woods, then again ſtretching through the plain. Next to the river, the moſt ſtriking objects in this direction are, the Great Canal, Kilpatrick hills, the Caſtle of Dumbarton, and the diſtant mountains of Argyle.

Upon the ſouth of the Clyde are the towns of Paiſley and Renfrew, and a rich intervening country; towards the eaſt the ſpires of Glaſgow, and the diſtant mountains of Tinto, in the upper ward of Lanarkſhire, offer themſelves to view. In the remaining directions the proſpect is more limited, though ſtill varied and agreeable.

In the neighbourhood of Garſcube his Lordſhip has erected an elegant bridge acroſs the Kelvin, and built an inn, to which parties from Glaſgow, during the ſeaſon of ſummer, often reſort in their days of leiſure. *J. D.*

FOR THE EDINBURGH MAGAZINE.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA FOR JUNE 1801.

AS the MOON, during her paſſage through the Zodiac, eclipſes no ſtars of any conſiderable magnitude, and as the planets are faſt approaching to their conjunction with the SUN, the phenomena, during the month

month of June, will be very few. To *Britain*, and other countries ſituated, nearly, under the ſame meridian, no eclipſes of the ſatellites of JUPITER will be viſible till the firſt of October.

Tuesday, June 2d.

At nine o'clock in the evening, all the ſatellites of JUPITER are lying on the weſt ſide of the planet, and are ſituated in the ſame order as they are placed in the ſyſtem; the firſt being neareſt, and the fourth fartheſt from the planet.

Wednesday, June 3d.

The planet MERCURY will arrive at his ſuperior conjunction with the SUN at three minutes paſt ſeven o'clock in the evening. At this time the longitude of the *Sun*, and, conſequently, of *Mercury*, will be 2ˢ..12°..37′..57″.

Friday, June 5th.

The GEORGIUM SIDUS is ſtationary in longitude 5ˢ..28°..7′..30″, and latitude 45 minutes north.

Tuesday, June 9th.

The planets MARS and JUPITER are in conjunction, and may be ſeen a little after the ſetting of the ſun. As the longitude of *Mars* and *Jupiter* is, at that time, about 4ˢ..3°..2′, *Mars's* latitude 1°..22′ north, and *Jupiter's* latitude 37 minutes north, it is evident that *Mars* will paſs above *Jupiter*, and that the diſtance of their centers, at the time of their conjunction, will be nearly 45 minutes.

Tuesday, June 16th.

VENUS is ſtationary in longitude 1ˢ..26°..44′, and latitude 2°..43 ſouth.

Friday, June 19th.

At 39 minutes paſt 12 o'clock noon, the MOON is in conjunction with the GEORGIUM SIDUS.

Saturday, June 20th.

At 32 minutes paſt 2 o'clock in the morning, the GEORGIUM SIDUS is in quadrature with the *Sun*, or the difference of their longitudes is exactly three ſigns. The longitude of the *Sun* is at that time 2ˢ..28°..12′..59″.

Sunday, June 21st.

At 51 minutes paſt ſix o'clock in the morning, the moon is in conjunction with *Spica Virginis*, a ſtar of the firſt magnitude.

On the ſame evening, at 21 minutes after 11 o'clock, the *Sun* enters *Cancer*,

Monday, June 22d.

At nine o'clock in the evening, the ſecond ſatellite of JUPITER is ſituated in that part of its orbit which lyes between the *Earth* and *Jupiter*, and, with an excellent teleſcope, may be ſeen travelling over his diſc in the form of a black round ſpot. This phenomenon, however, will not be ſeen to great advantage, and, probably, not at all, becauſe *Jupiter* is then ſituated too near the ſun.

Wednesday, June 24th.

The firſt and ſecond ſatellites of Jupiter are in conjunction on the eaſt ſide of his diſc; the fourth is placed on the ſame ſide at a greater diſtance, and the third towards the weſt of the planet.

On the ſame evening *Jupiter* is in conjunction with δ *Cancri*, a ſtar of the fourth magnitude, whoſe longitude, according to Dr Bradley, is 4ˢ..5°..56′..47″, and latitude 4′..13″ north. As *Jupiter's* latitude is at that time 37 minutes north, it is evident that the diſtance of their centers, at the time of conjunction, will be nearly 32′..47″. On the ſame day, at 40 minutes paſt twelve o'clock noon, the *Moon* is in conjunction with *Antares*, a ſtar of the firſt magnitude. *D. B.*

EDINBURGH, *George's Square, May 15th*, 1801.

PECU-

PECULIARITIES IN THE SITUATION OF THE IRISH CLERGY *.

1. IN the province of Munſter, the inhabitants are ſuppoſed to be one third of the eſtabliſhed church; one third Proteſtant Separatiſts; and one third Romaniſts. But the Proteſtant Separatiſts are more hoſtile to the clergy of the eſtabliſhment than the Romaniſts are. Hence, the clergy have frequent conteſts for their property, and their time is too much engroſſed by their attention to it.

The clergy of Ireland are far from being exactors in the articles of tithes. Throughout the kingdom they do not receive a twentieth. The majority of diſſenters, the lawleſs ſpirit of the people; exorbitant rents; non-reſidence; a prevailing ſpirit of lukewarmneſs in religion; and envy at the opulence of the higher eccleſiaſtics, are among the cauſes which have raiſed ſuch a ſpirit of oppoſition to our parochial clergy.

2. Throughout the other three provinces the majority of the Romaniſts is probably in the proportion of four to one. So that though in cities and towns proteſtant congregations are large; even well-beneficed clergymen in the country parts have often ſuch very ſmall audiences, that their exertions in the public diſcharge of their duty are apt to be too little invigorated.

From theſe two remarks it follows, that the clergy of the church of Ireland are particularly obliged to acquaint themſelves with the reaſonableneſs of conformity to their own church, and with the grounds of the Romiſh controverſy.

3. The country parts of Ireland are inhabited in a different manner from thoſe in England. A village is very rarely placed near a church; but the houſes, or rather cottages, are thinly ſcattered over the whole pariſh, or over that union of pariſhes to which one church belongs.

4. The pariſhes, or unions, are of a much greater extent that in England; and many are of a magnitude incredible to Engliſhmen. Hence, and from the fact mentioned in the third remark, the difficulty of intercourſe with pariſhioners is increaſed; and in country churches there is a general omiſſion of divine ſervice in the afternoon. Hence likewiſe the clergy, ſituate in the country, cannot have the pleaſure and advantage of frequently converſing with each other; or, at leaſt, cannot enjoy ſociety among themſelves without trouble and expence. Hence too the property of the clergy becomes more open to oppreſſion, as drawing tithes is often impracticable.

The occaſional duties in the remote parts of large country pariſhes, are frequently done by ſome of the clergy, who live in the outſkirts, and by private agreement between the parties. There is a ſpecial ſtatute that a chapel of eaſe may be erected, and a curate of it appointed, with the conſent of the dioceſan, and the majority of the pariſhioners of the eſtabliſhed church, who do not dwell within three miles of the pariſh church, or within two miles of any other church or chapel of the eſtabliſhment.

5. Other circumſtances unfavourable to the Iriſh parochial clergy are, the general want of that reſpectable middle claſs, which prevails ſo much in England, and which is ſo well adapted to their ſtation and diſpoſition; the inferior cultivation of learning, and of the arts, throughout this kingdom; and therefore the uncommonneſs of valuable books, and of literary converſation; the neceſſity of much attention to men of rank and property for protection from injury, in a country where the laws are feebly executed; the ſources of expence ariſing from the general proneneſs to ſocial and convivial life, among thoſe with whom the clergy can

* Communicated to that learned and uſeful writer Mr *Gisborne*, by a perſon of high rank in the Eſtabliſhment.

can live; and from a numerous poor, who have no legal proviſion.

We have no poor-laws in this country. Every Sunday a collection is made from the whole congregation, as with you from communicants; and the money is given to a liſt of poor, agreed on by the miniſter and church-wardens. Theſe poor are pariſhioners of the eſtabliſhment. The number of our rich abſentees muſt greatly leſſen public and private contributions for the poor. In particular caſes our clergy recommend, and the rich give, in proportion to the diſtreſs; without regard to religious denominations.

6. Great numbers of country pariſhes are without churches, notwithſtanding the largeneſs and frequency of parliamentary grants for building them. But obſtacles ariſe from inability to procure convenient ſituations, where thoſe of ruined churches are become inconvenient; and from the want of proper workmen and ſuperintendants.

Meeting houſes, and Romiſh chapels, which are more humble ſtructures, and are built and repaired with greater zeal, are in ſufficient numbers about the country, and afford their reſpective congregations convenient opportunities of frequenting them. Objections, however, to building churches equally ſimple are not among the obſtacles to an increaſe of their number. A country church is ſcarcely ſeen with a tower or ſpire. The eſtated gentlemen themſelves ſhow a great indifference about the erection of churches.

In pariſhes which have no church, that is, are non-cures, there is very rarely a parſonage houſe, or reſidence; which ſerious men eſteem a great defect. Nor is there a curate in ſuch pariſhes; but the dioceſan allots to ſome neighbouring clergyman, moſt conveniently ſituate, a certain ſtipend for performing the occaſional duties. Marriages are too often allowed in private houſes; but when the ordinary forbids this practice, the parties ſometimes reſort to the ruins of the pariſh church.

7. Few country-clergymen have parſonage-houſes. Building, though by law the whole firſt expence, not exceeding the income of two years, is repaid to the builder or his heirs, within three years after a vacancy by the ſucceſſor (in each of the three following ſucceſſions, one fourth of the original ſum is leſſened until the whole is ſunk) and though the truſtees of the Board of Firſt-fruits allow by law one hundred pounds to every builder of a glebe-houſe; is too heavy a burden for the generality of the clergy. The builder muſt advance the money, or borrow it on his own ſecurity. The unſkilfulneſs or diſhoneſty of workmen deters perſons, who muſt in general be unacquainted with ſuch matters. And it is difficult to procure land for a proper ſituation; and for ſuch a farm, or glebe, as is neceſſary for the ſubſiſtence of a clergyman, often placed at a great diſtance from markets, and unable to purchaſe the common conveniences of life.

The preſent, as well as the preceding remark, ſhows that the members of the eſtabliſhment will probably decreaſe in pariſhes ſo circumſtanced; and that the ſubſtitution of curates in ſuch places is likely to be too frequent. The ſalaries of curates cannot be more than fifty pounds a year, and are ſcarcely ever leſs.

8. The archbiſhops and biſhops viſit their own dioceſes yearly. And the archbiſhops viſit the dioceſes of their reſpective provinces every third year. I remember to have read that Laud viſited the province of Canterbury, which is the laſt Engliſh archiepiſcopal viſitation. We have ſuch viſitations regularly every third year. The biſhops throughout the province are inhibited for about a month before the time; and the inhibition is uſually

ly relaxed after the viſitation of each dioceſe. The archbiſhop at the time is veſted with all the canonical powers of the viſiting biſhop. If he diſcover any thing amiſs in the dioceſe, he may repreſent it to the biſhop. Should the biſhop's own houſe be dilapidated, he can compel him to repair it. Our chancellors and archdeacons, as ſuch, never viſit. But the biſhops viſit every year; and in the third year they viſit previouſly to the archbiſhop's viſitation, in order to prepare matters for his Grace's eaſe and ſatisfaction. Viſiting is no great burden to the archbiſhop. He receives the proxies: he continues as long as he chooſes at every biſhop's houſe; and, like the biſhops, he viſits at one place only in a dioceſe, the clergy coming from conſiderable diſtances to attend viſitations. While a biſhop is inhibited, if one of his clergy wants inſtitution to a benefice, application muſt be made to the archbiſhop.

The weight of the prelates, who in general have good leaſes holden under them, and large patronages, is very uſeful to the clergy in procuring them glebes, and protecting their property. The kingdom would ſoon emerge from many of the inconveniences ſtated, if the readineſs of the landed gentlemen to ſell, at their extended value, moderate portions of land for glebes, equalled the endeavours of the prelates, to obtain proper places of reſidence for their clergy. We have one power unknown to you; that of being able to ſequeſter the income of a living for the purpoſe of building a houſe, where there is a glebe, and after poſſeſſion for two years. In other reſpects the powers of the Engliſh and Iriſh prelates are the ſame.

9. In ſome matters we have the advantage over your church. The form of *conge d'elire* is aboliſhed: our prelates being appointed by royal patent. Bonds of reſignation are declared ſimoniacal by our thirty-fifth canon. A Dublin ſynod of the year 1711, appointed good forms of prayer for priſoners, confined debtors, and criminals under ſentence of death. Our congregations univerſally uſe Brady and Tate's verſion of the pſalms.

The following calculations are taken from a memoir to an eccleſiaſtical map of Ireland, by Dr Beaufort. The map itſelf is divided according to the dioceſes; and ſhows the churches, glebes, parſonage-houſes, &c. &c. by proper marks.

In Ireland there are pariſhes .	2436
Benefices with cure of ſouls .	1123
Sinecures, excluſive of the above benefices	111
Churches	1001
Glebe-houſes	354
Benefices without glebes . .	366

The ſinecures abovementioned include deaneries and prebends. But very many of our deaneries and prebends are cures of ſouls. A few are ſinecures, like yours, ariſing from eſtates; or they are endowed with two thirds of the great tithes in ſome pariſh, where the vicar has the remaining third for ſerving the cure.

COPIES OF THREE ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS AND JAMES EARL OF MURRAY, REGENT OF SCOTLAND, TO THE LAIRD OF BARNBARRAUCH *.

LETTER I.

From Francis the Second of France, and Mary Queen of Scotland.

"Reverendo in Chriſto Patri Domino Nicolao a Sermoneta, Cardinali, Rerum Regnique n'ri Scotie promotori.

"FRANCISCUS et Maria, Dei gratia Francorum et Scotorum rex et regina, r'mo in Chriſto patri et d'no Nicalao a Sermoneta Cardinali rerum regni n'ri Scotie promotori digniſſimo S. R'me pater in g'ram familiaris n'ri Thome Hay p'bri

* The letters are part of a collection found in the repoſitories of R. Vans Agnew Eſq. in Galloway, and moſt of them addreſſed to his anceſtors.

p'bri ſcribimus ad ſanctiſſimum d'num n'rum Papam accurate poſtulamuſq. non modo ut hunc monaſterio de Glenluce al's Vallis Lucis Ciſtercien' ordin's Candide Caſe diocefis per obitum venerabilis qu'ndam p'ris Jacobi illius ultimi abbatis nunc vacan. preficiat abbatem; verum etiam ut ex ejuſd. mon'rii fructibus centum librarumuſual ſmonetæ redni n'ri Scotie annuam penſionem Patricio de Vallibus cl'rico liberaliter conferat. Nos hanc cauſam R. P. T. fidei quam n'ris rebus ſemper preſto fuiſſe ſenſimus diligenter commendamus petimuſq. ut ejus opera atq. aut'e hoc negotium quam fiere poteſt celerrime conficiatur. Quo quidem rem nobis fecerit gratiſſimam. Cetera que hec ſpectant ex Jacobo Thornton n'ro iſtic procuratore intelliget R. T. P. cui faúſta o'ra feliciaq. precamus. Datum Ambaſie 23 menſis Martii 1559. *Franciscus. Maria.*

[The ſignature of Mary is in a very good hand; but that of Francis ſeems as if it had been done with many ſtrokes of the pen, and is wrote in a moſt ſchool-boy like manner.]

LETTER II.

From Mary of Scotland and Henry Darnly.

" To our traiſt friend the Lard Barnbarrauch.

" TRAIST friend, We greit you weill. Not onelie has oure rebellis and diſſobedient ſubjectis yair aſſiſtaries taken on armour ridden with convocation to and fra in the cuntre, and fortifeit and withhalden divers houſes and ſtrenches agains us; bot alſo, as weill apperis be yair proceedings myndis to draw in ſtrangearis in our realme and ſa far as in yame lyis to pervert ye haill ſtait of our com'oun weill quhilk to us is unſufferable; and we traiſt nane of our faythfull ſubjects (of quhilk nowmer we ſpeciallie eſteme you) wil be contentit of yr unnatural defection, bot with yair lyffes and geir will ſet forthwart our guid and juſt qwerell praying yow yairfore effectuuſlie that accompaniet with the haill force ye may mak with 20 dayes victuales, efter your cu'ming with palyeons to ly on the fields ye faill not to addres you to meit ws at Striveling ye laſt day of September inſtant and frathyne to pas furthwart with us to ſic places as ye occaſioun of oure ſervice ſall require as ye will thereby do us maiſt thankfull pleſour; and gar us confirme ye ſame guid opinioun quhilk we ever conſavit and pre'tlie hes of you. Subſcrivit with oure handis at Dunde ye 13 Septe'ber 1565. *Marie R. Henry R.*

LETTER. III.

From James Earl of Murray, Regent of Scotland.

" To our traiſt friend the Lard of Barnbarrauch.

" TRAIST friend. After maiſt hertlie commendatioun we underſtand that certane futemen and horſemen ar pre'tlie cum in Galloway ... be the Lord Fleming qlks intends or ar already aſſegeing the hous of Crugiltown pertaining to our brother the commendator of Quhithorne and ſen the attemptat is ſa manifeſt and committet under the time of . . . . . we pray you maiſt effectuuſlie as ye will ever ſhaw us pleſour and guidwill, that with all poſſibel diligence ye convene your kin, friends and ſervands and all that will do for you and relieve our ſaid brother of ye ſaid aſſege and perſew the authors thereof with all hoſtilitie. For the qilk ye ſal have ſic warrand as ye will think reaſonable. And this we aſſuretlie lippen for at your hands as ever ye will deſerve our guidwill and kindneſs. Thus we commit you to God; at Edinburgh the 23 of Aprile 1569. In haiſt, your aſſurit freind,

James Regent.

[The Laird of Barnbarrauch at the time was of the name of *Vaus*, or *Vans*, which is the ſame, and has always been latinized *de Vallibus*.]

FOR

FOR THE EDINBURGH MAGAZINE.

ON THE ADVANTAGES ATTENDING THE STUDY OF ASTRONOMY.

To D. B. George's Square, Edinburgh.

SIR,

I GREATLY value your celeſtial intelligence, and have had the pleaſure, this morning, before ſunriſe, of profiting by it, in a charming view of the planet Mercury, ſeldom ſeen to ſuch advantage, the horizon happening to be here remarkably free from haze, and the ſky without a cloud.

I have ſeen ☿ twice on the ☉ but once only before with a favourable ſky at his greateſt elongation. I have been, Sir, all my life extremely fond of the ſtudy of aſtronomy, and it has led me to a ſublimity of thought, heaven-ward tending, that has always afforded me great ſatisfaction. I am the *Aſtro-Theologos* of Anderſon's Literary Weekly Intelligencer called the Bee, who wrote the Aſtronomical Reverie, vol. III. p. 122. to which I beg leave to call your attention.

Heaven, to which I have been ſo much dedicated from my youth upwards, has greatly favoured me in celeſtial viſion.

At St Andrews I ſaw the firſt tranſit of Venus; at Edinburgh the ſecond, and both with ſatisfactory advantages. Theſe important tranſits were, as every body knows, on the 6th of June 1761, and the 3d of June 1769, and led to the determination of the magnitude of the ſolar ſyſtem.

The celebrated eclipſe of the ſun on the 1ſt of April 1764, I ſaw at Bath.

No total or ſingular eclipſe of the moon has eſcaped my favourable obſervation.

I ſaw Mars in oppoſition to the ſun, and with a hue and luſtre that cannot occur again for ſeveral centuries.

I have ſeen Venus caſt a ſhadow.

I ſaw, in Weſt Lothian, the beautiful comet of the year 1769-70, the only ſtriking phenomenon of that kind which has happened in our times, and which I ſaw as favourably as poſſible.

The laſt great meteor of Auguſt 13, 1783, I not only ſaw from its commencement until its exploſion, but, by a ſingular good fortune, was one of the few who heard the exploſion, by which its diſtance from the earth was aſcertained. This occurred to me in the moſt favourable circumſtances imaginable in Weſt Lothian.

I ſaw the ſudden fall of the ☿ in the barometer, when the earthquakes took place in Calabria, and obſerved it on the different days when the ſhocks happened: this good fortune I had at Edinburgh. I ſaw alſo the fuliginous matter tinging the linens laid out to whiten, during the ſummer of that fatal year when Hecla exploded, and when all the atmoſphere of Europe was filled with the dry haze.

I ſhould become tedious, were I to enumerate the various occaſions on which I have been thus favoured by the ſight of heavenly rarities, but I cannot cloſe without mentioning, that I ſaw that beautiful occultation of Saturn by the moon, which was viſible in Scotland a few years ago, and which I beheld, from its novelty to me, with ſingular ſatisfaction.

If any ſtudy can draw men from the dirty practices of this dirty little world, it is the ſtudy of aſtronomy; and I hope the bills of fare you preſent to my countrymen, may induce many

many to ſhare in ſuch feaſts as I have been deſcribing. I am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

Aſtro-Theologes.

TWEEDSIDE, *April 27th* 1801.

P.S. I ought not to have omitted the pleaſure I had in ſeeing the conjunction of ☿ and the ☽ on the 16th of this month, or that of adding that I hope you will continue your Celeſtial Kalendar.

REMARKS ON THE GENIUS AND WRITINGS OF ALLAN RAMSAY.

From Chalmers's new edition of Ramsay's Poems.

[*Continued from our last, p.* 268.]

IN the Addreſs to his Book, with which he concludes the firſt volume of his poems, our author has imitated, with ſingular ſucceſs, the manner of the Roman lyric. A moderate portion of vanity is the chartered right of a poet. If he augur not for himſelf immortality, there is perhaps a fair preſumption, that he will never attain it. Yet, ſuch is the pride of our nature, and our jealouſy of all aſſuming pretenſions, we cannot bear to ſee this ſentiment ſeriouſly entertained, or too confidently aſſerted: it will then offend by its arrogance; and its imprudent cheriſher will juſtly ſhare the fate, which Shakeſpear announces to that "vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itſelf and falls on the other ſide." It is a wiſer policy to veil it in the garb of jocularity; as if the poet even ridiculed himſelf for his preſumption. Thus Ramſay, after expreſſing his dread of the worſt of all fates—neglect, and oblivion, addreſſes, very happily, his "dear venturous book:"

Away ſic fears! gae ſpread my fame,
And fix me an immortal name;
Ages to comes ſhall thee revive,
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The future critics, I foreſee,
Shall have their notes on notes on thee:
The wits unborn ſhall beauties find,
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As the Horatian manner is imitated in the preceding pieces, and in the excellent addreſs "To Mr William Aikman;" the Epiſtle to Mr Arbuckle is an imitation, no leſs ſucceſsful, of the Hudibraſtic. The poet's picture of himſelf is humorous and ſpirited; as if drawn by the pencil of Hogarth, we ſee him reflected from his own mirror. He delineates, with equal ſpirit, his mental, as his corporeal qualities; and aſſuming nothing that tends to extraordinary exaltation, we are the more apt to give him credit for the fidelity of his draught. Indeed, the character allowed him by the wits, and poets, who were his contemporaries, is ſufficient evidence, that an overweaning conceit of his own abilities was none of his defects. Pope, Gay, Swift, Arbuthnot, Steele, were all admirers, and patrons, of our Scottiſh bard. Somerville was his correſpondent and encomiaſt. The writer of theſe pages has it on authority, which he cannot queſtion, (a near relation of the celebrated Dr Arbuthnot,) that Pope was particularly delighted with the Gentle Shepherd; and was wont to make Arbuthnot interpret to him ſuch paſſages, as he could not eaſily underſtand: it is, therefore, with juſtice, that the ingenious Sir William Scott of Thirleſtane, who died at Edinburgh on the 8th of October 1725, records, in an inſcription which is not unworthy of the pen of a Catullus, the admiſſion of the portrait of Ramſay among thoſe genuine poets, whoſe images adorned the temple of Apollo:

Effigies

Effigies Allani Ramſæi, Poëtæ Scoti, inter cæteras Poetarum Imagines in Templo Apollonis ſuſpenſa.

Ductum Parrhaſiâ videtis arte
Allani effigiem, favente Phœbo,
Qui Scotis numeros ſuos, novoque
Priſcam reſtituit vigore linguam.
Hanc Phœbus tabulam, hanc novem ſorores
Suſpendunt lepidis jocis dicatam:
Gaudete, O Veneres Cupidineſque,
Omnes illecebræ, facetiæque,
Plauſus edite; nunc in æde Phœbi
Splendet conſpicuo decore veſtri
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In mentioning the poetical epiſtles of Ramſay, the facetious correſpondence between him and Lieutenant William Hamilton muſt not be forgotten. This gentleman, who ſeems to have inherited a talent for eaſy verſification, with a conſiderable vein for humour, had figured in Scottiſh verſe, ſeveral years before Ramſay was known as a poet; nor is it improbable, that on ſome of the humorous compoſitions of the latter, our author formed his own manner, in thoſe burleſque pieces, which are in the Scottiſh dialect, and peculiar pleaſure of ſix lines; as the Elegy on Maggy Johnſton, &c. In Watſon's collection, printed at Edinburgh in 1711, we find Hamilton's Elegy on Bonny Heck, which is alluded to in theſe familiar epiſtles between him and Ramſay, and juſtly praiſed. He ſuſtains his part in this correſpondence with great ſpirit, nor is it eaſy to decide, which of the poets has the ſuperiority in the conteſt.

The Fables of Ramſay are not of uniform merit. In ſome of his compoſitions of this kind he has attained to a high pitch of excellence; in others he is beneath mediocrity. If we may judge from the very ſmall number of eminent fabuliſts, there is no ſpecies of compoſition, which is more difficult, than that of a perfect fable. Eſop, who, if not the inventor, was probably among the earlieſt of the writers of fable, ſeems to have had no other idea in his compoſitions than to convey ſome moral truth in a ſhort and appoſite allegory. Moſt of his fables are of a ſerious nature. Such of them as poſſeſs any portion of feſtivity, as the Fox and the Crow with the cheeſe in its beak, ſeem to derive it purely from the accidental nature of the ſtory. The latter fabuliſts have annexed other requiſites to the compoſition of a fable, which tend to raiſe it in dignity and uſefulneſs. The fables of Phædrus gave the firſt example of that ingenuity or *naiveté* of expreſſion, and of that ſlyneſs of wit, *vafrities ingenii*, which have, ſince his time, been eſteemed the characteriſtics of this ſpecies of writing. In the former of theſe qualities, la Fontaine, the chief of the modern diſciples of Phædrus, is ſupremely excellent; but with regard to the latter, he errs from an exuberance of wit which derogates from the ſuperior requiſite of ſimplicity. In reality, the latter character ſeems now to be fixed, as the eſſential requiſite of fable; and where ſimplicity is preſerved in thought and in expreſſion, the poet may indulge his genius even for the higheſt efforts of his art, the power of deſcriptive painting, the tender, the pathetic, perhaps even the ſublime. In this higher walk of fable, the illuſtrious Deſbillons ſtands perhaps far removed beyond competition.

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their fictitious characters with ſufficient aptitude and addreſs; but we loſe ſight entirely of their original nature: we ſeldom perceive a trace remaining of the fox, the elephant, the monkey, or the maſtiff: any other animals might have been employed to fill their parts: the apologue, therefore, is deficient in characteriſtic, or in dramatic propriety.

The beſt of Ramſay's fables are, The Aſs and the Brock, The Caterpillar and the Ant, The twa Cats and the Cheeſe. Theſe, with the utmoſt propriety of character, have all the *naivete* of Phædrus and la Fontaine, with the wit and eaſe of Gay. The reſt are entitled to no high commendation.

The comic powers of Ramſay found a much ſuperior field of exerciſe in his tales: and of theſe it is much to be regretted that he has left ſo few. The Monk and the Miller's Wife would of itſelf be his paſſport to immortality, as a comic poet. In this capacity, he might enter the liſts with Chaucer, and Boccacio, with no great riſk of diſcomfiture. Though far their inferior in acquired addreſs, his native ſtrength was perhaps not widely diſproportionate. Of this admirable tale, I conceive he has the merit of the invention; as the ſtory is not to be found in any of the older writers, as Sacchetti, Boccacio, or in the Cento Novelle antiche. In a few circumſtances there is indeed a ſmall reſemblance to the 73d of the Cent nouvelles Nouvelles, intitled l'Oiſeau en la Cage, which barely affords a preſumption, that Ramſay may have read that ſtory; but in all the material circumſtances, his Monk and the Miller's Wife is original. A ſtory of more feſtive humour could not have been deviſed. The characters are ſuſtained with conſummate propriety; the manners are true to nature; and poetic juſtice is moſt ſtrictly obſerved in the winding up of the piece. We are amuſed with the ingenuous ſimplicity and credulity of the honeſt miller: we are delighted with the malicious roguery of the young ſtudent; who amply revenges himſelf, yet, with infinite good-nature, ſpares his hoſteſs, and her ſanctimonious gallant, that utter diſgrace, which they might have juſtly expected at his offended hands.

Of the other pieces intitled Tales, The Lure is the beſt: yet it is more properly a ſatirical fable or allegory. The narrative and deſcriptive parts have much merit: but the moral of the fiction ſcarcely atones for its indelicacy. The Tale of Three Bonnets is rather a dramatic dialogue, than a proper tale. It is a ſevere political ſatire againſt his countrymen, for agreeing to the union of the kingdoms. Had our author lived to the preſent age, he would have confeſſed the abſurdity of his prejudices, and borne teſtimony to the falſehood of his own predictions. Abſtracting from the error of its opinions, we ſee the genius of the author in the characteriſtic painting, the knowledge of life and manners, and the keenedge of ſatire, which are conſpicuous in this performance. It was amongthoſe compoſitions, which the author, perhaps grown wiſer as a politician, did not admit into the collection of his works; though it appears in a ſeparate pamphlet, along with the two tales before mentioned, "printed for the author, and ſold at "his ſhop, Edinburgh.

On the ſame or a kindred ſubject, on which it appears, that the mind of our author had taken a keener intereſt than he dared to avow, is The Viſion, printed by him in The Evergreen, with a miſleading ſignature. This fine poem, under the affected diſguiſe of being "Compylit in La-"tin be a moſt lernit clerk, in tyme "of our hairſhip and oppreſſion, "anno 1300, and tranſlatit in 1524," is aſcertained to have been compoſed by Ramſay, about the period of the rebellion

rebellion 1715. During half a century, it impoſed itſelf upon the public as an ancient compoſition. Lord Hailes, and Doctor Beattie, at length gave a poſitive opinion, that it was not older than that epoch. The arguments brought by the elder Mr Tytler*, for aſſigning it to Allan Ramſay, are convincing:—1. It was firſt publiſhed by him, and not found in any older collection than The Evergreen.—2. There were affixed to it, in Roman letters, AR. SCOT; which are indicative of his own name, and country.—3. Its political ſentiments coincide with his.—4. The introduction of humorous deſcription, which is unſuitable to the general ſtrain of the compoſition, but conſonant to Ramſay's predominant talent.—5. The poſitive acknowledgment of the daughter of the poet, (a lady of much diſcernment and probity,) that this poem was of her father's compoſition. In addition to theſe reaſons, which already go far to decide the queſtion, I ſhall throw ſome other arguments into the ſcale:—1. Ramſay was deſirous of making The Viſion paſs for the compoſition of Alexander Scot, of whom we find ſome other poems in the Evergreen, particularly A New Year's Gift to Queen Mary: but he has unluckily been inattentive to chronology. This poem of Scot's is dated 1562, whereas The Viſion is pretended to be tranſlated in 1524: here is an interval of near forty years, a period to which the poetical life of very *few* writers has been known to extend, and it is believed of *none*, who have left ſo few remains.—2. The Viſion, though feigned to be compoſed ſo long before, is more modern in its language than the New Year's Gift of 1562.—3. The talents of Alexander Scot were not equal to that compoſition, as his poems bear witneſs.—4. In many parts of The Viſion we obſerve a ſtriking ſimilarity of thought and expreſſion to various paſſages in Ramſay's poems†.

The Viſion has great poetical merit.

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* Obſervations on The Viſion, in Tranſactions of the Society of Scottiſh Antiquarians, vol. i.

† Sayd Fere, let nocht thy heart affray,
I come to hear thy plaint:
Thy graining and maining
Hath lately reik'd mine eir!
Debar then afar then
All eirineſs and ſeir.
Viſion, ſt. 6.

Again:
Reſt but a while content,
Nocht ſeirful, but cheirful,
And wait the will of fate.
Ibid. ſt. 11.

Mair ſpear na, and ſeir na,
But ſet thy mind at reſt;
Aſpire ay ſtill higher ay,
And always hope the beſt.
Reſponſe of the Oracle to the Poet's Wiſh.

I viſſy't him then round about.
Viſion, ſt. 7.

——pleaſe to ſtep in,
And viſſy't round and round.
Gent. Shep. act. 3. *ſc.* 2. *prol.*

For aften far abuſe the mune
We watching beings do convene.
Viſion, ſt. 12.

——He's ſeeing a' that's done
In ilka place beneath or yont the mune.
Gent. Shep. act. 3. *ſc.* 2.

——Or all rin richt again.
Viſion, ſt. 1.

——To gar the bowls row richt.
Gent. Shep. act. 2. *ſc.* 4.

Syne byndging and wyndging,
Qhen thus reduſit to howps,
They dander and wander
About pure lickmadowps.
Viſion, ſt. 23.

He gangs about ſornan frae place to place,
As ſcrimpt of manners as of ſence and grace;
Oppreſſing a' in punishment of their ſin,
That are within his tenth degree of kin.
Gent. Shep. act. 3. *ſc.* 4.

But

rit. The allegorical perſonage of the Genius of Scotland is drawn with great power of imagination and characteriſtic propriety of attribute. The ſentiments are ſuitable to the dignity of the theme, and the diction is highly energetic. It is a pity that the poem is not poſſeſſed of uniform excellence. In the deſcription of the carouſal of the gods, the author has indulged his talent for the ludicrous, at the expence of his propriety.

A few of the poems of Ramſay are written, as we have before remarked, in what may properly be termed Engliſh verſe. It is in theſe attempts, which are generally of a graver ſpecies of compoſition than is ſuitable to his genius, that our Scottiſh poet chiefly fails. He is evidently not at his eaſe. He is in a dreſs of ceremony; and, from want of uſe, he feels it ſit awkwardly upon him. He is conſtantly falling back into his accuſtomed habits. He miſtakes the quantities, and ſometimes the proper ſenſe of Engliſh words; as we may ſee in his Content, and in his poem on Friendſhip. When he clothes the ſame ſentiment in Scottiſh and in Engliſh phraſeology, its inferiority in the latter dreſs is moſt remarkably conſpicuous. Thus, in the beautiful dialogue between Peggy and Jenny in the Gentle Shepherd, the latter paints, with genuine humour, the diſtreſſes incident to a married life:

O 'tis a pleaſant thing to be a bride—
Syne whinging gets about your ingle ſide,
Yelping for this or that wi' faſheous din;
To make them brats then ye man toil and ſpin;
Ae wean fa's ſick, ane ſcads itſell wi' brue,
Ane breaks his ſhin, anither tines his ſhoe;
The de'il gangs o'er Jock Webſter, hame grows hell,
And Pate miſcaws you war than tongue can tell.

In the poem entitled *Content*, we find the ſame ſentiment in Engliſh; but how poor, how mean, in compariſon is the expreſſion!

The pregnant matron's grief as much prevails;
Some of the children always ſomething ails;
One boy is ſick, t' other has broke his head;
And nurſe is blam'd when little miſs is dead.

Yet, from this cenſure of his pieces in Engliſh verſe, we muſt except the poem intitled *Health*, which is a compoſition of ſuperior merit. Its form is that of ſatire; and its purpoſe is to inculcate the attainment, and preſervation, of the ineſtimable bleſſing of health, by the delineation of a ſeries of characters, in which the effects of ſloth, effeminacy, gluttony, ebriety, and every ſpecies of debauchery, are contraſted with thoſe of activity, temperance, and ſobriety. The effects of the paſſions, on the bodily temperature, are likewiſe judiciouſly eſtimated; the peeviſh, the envious, and the malignant characters, are oppoſed to the cheerful, the contented, and the benevolent; and the preſervation of a juſt equilibrium of mind, and benignity of heart, is ſhewn to be eminently promotive of the vigour of the animal frame. The characters are drawn with

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But now it's tyme for me to draw
My ſtynand ſword againſt club-law,
And gar my lion rore.
Viſion, ſt. 24.

But now again the lion rares,
And joy ſpreads o'er the plain.
Gent. Shep. act. 3. *ſc.* 2.

——The victor proudly cracks,
He has blawn out our lamp.
Viſion, ſt. 8.

For without oil our lamp will
Gae blinkan out.
Edinburgh Salutation, &c.

with a bold ſpirit, and a powerful hand; while the ſatire has all the keenneſs of the Juvenalian ſchool.

Of lyric poetry, one of the moſt difficult ſpecies is the ſong. It is one of thoſe mental exertions, that require not ſo much a ſuperiority either of genius, or of poetic fancy, as a certain native addreſs: ſo, in the intercouſe of life, there is an elegance of manner, which pleaſes, independently, either of worth or ability. Some of the beſt ſongs in the Engliſh language were written by contemporaries and countrymen of Ramſay; by Crawfurd, Hamilton of Bangour, and Lord Binning: for we have nothing more perfect, in that ſpecies of compoſition, than Tweedſide, "What beauties does Flora "diſcloſe:"—"Go, plaintive ſounds;" —and, "Did ever ſwain a nymph "adore."—The elegant author of Eſſays on Song-writing has arranged his collection under three different claſſes—ballad and paſtoral—paſſionate and deſcriptive—ingenious and witty. As the talents of Ramſay were conſpicuous, in all of theſe departments, it might be preſumed that he ſhould particularly excel in ſong compoſition: and in reality he has diſplayed, in that ſpecies of writing, a high portion of merit; though perhaps not reaching that degree of eminence, at which other writers, who are in other reſpects of inferior talents, have arrived. This appears to have ariſen from his haſte, rather than his incapacity to give his compoſitions that perfect poliſh which ſeems to be particularly requiſite in a ſong. Phillips * has obſerved juſtly, that "a ſong loſes all its luſtre, "if it be not poliſhed with the "greateſt accuracy. The ſmalleſt "blemiſh in it, like a flaw in a jewel, "takes off the whole value of it. A "ſong is as it were a little image in "enamel, that requires all the nice "touches of the pencil, a gloſs and a "ſmoothneſs, with thoſe delicate fi-"niſhing ſtrokes, which would be "ſuperfluous and thrown away upon "larger figures, where the ſtrength "and boldneſs of a maſterly hand "gives all the grace." This delicate finiſhing Ramſay's haſty pencil could not always beſtow: yet, as the beauty and propriety of ſentiment are ſtill more material than the elegance of the dreſs,

Sribendi recte, ſapere principium,—

we find many of his ſongs, wherein there is every thing to praiſe in the thought, and fortunately very little in the expreſſion, that diminiſhes its power of pleaſing. An excellent judge † has declared his opinion, that "The Laſs of Patie's Mill—The "Yellow-hair'd Laddie—Farewell to "Lochaber—and ſome others, muſt "be allowed to be equal to any, and "ſuperior, in point of paſtoral ſim-"plicity, to moſt lyric productions, "either in the Scottiſh, or any other "language." Among thoſe others, I would mention, The laſt Time I came o'er the Moor—Beſſy Bell and Mary Gray—Now wat ye wha I met yeſtreen—Through the Wood Laddie—The Highland Laddie—My Patie is a Lover gay. His ballad on Bonny Kate, (Lady Catharine Cochran,) which is written in the ſtanza of Shenſtone, has uncommon vigour and hilarity, propriety and poliſh. Such then are the lyric merits, which, notwithſtanding their attendant imperfections, muſt for ever give Ramſay a very high place among the writers of Scottiſh and Engliſh ſong.

In the year 1725, Ramſay publiſhed his paſtoral comedy of The Gentle Shepherd, the nobleſt and moſt permanent monument of his fame.

* Guardian, No. 16.

† Mr Ritſon, who, beſides other ingenious works, has favoured the public with two admirable collections of Engliſh, and of Scottiſh ſongs and melodies.

fame. A few years before, he had publiſhed, in a ſingle ſheet, A Paſtoral Dialogue between Patie and Roger, which was re-printed in the firſt collection of his poems, in 1721. This compoſition being much admired, his literary friends urged him to extend his plan to a regular drama: and to his ſuggeſtion the literary world is indebted for one of the moſt perfect paſtoral poems that has ever appeared *.

The paſtoral drama is an invention of the moderns. The firſt who attempted this ſpecies of poetry was Agoſtino de Beccari, in his Sacrificio Favola Paſtorale, printed in 1553. Taſſo is ſuppoſed to have taken the hint from him; and is allowed, in his Aminta, publiſhed in 1753, to have far ſurpaſſed his maſter. Guarini followed, whoſe Paſtor Fido contends for the palm with the Aminta, and, in the general opinion of the Italians, is judged to have obtained it. Taſſo himſelf is ſaid to have confeſſed the ſuperior merit of his rival's work; but to have added, in his own defence, that had Guarini never ſeen his Aminta, he never would have ſurpaſſed it. Yet, I think, there is little doubt, that this preferenee is ill-founded. Both theſe compoſitions have reſplendent beauties, with glaring defects and impropricties. I am, however, much miſtaken, if the latter are not more abundant in the Paſtor Fido, as the former are predominant in the Aminta. Both will ever be admired, for beauty of poetical expreſſion, for rich imagery, and for detached ſentiments of equal delicacy and tenderneſs: but the fable, both of the Aminta, and Paſtor Fido, errs againſt all probability; and the general language and ſentiments of the characters are utterly remote from nature. The fable of the Aminta is not dramatic; for it is ſuch, that the principal incidents, on which the plot turns, are incapable of repreſentation: the beautiful Sylvia, ſtripped naked, and bound by her hair to a tree by a brutal ſatyr, and releaſed by her lover Amyntas;—her flight from the wolves;—the precipitation of Amyntas from a high rock, who narrowly eſcapes being daſhed in pieces, by having his fall broken by the ſtump of a tree;—are all incidents incapable of being repreſented to the eye, and muſt therefore be thrown into narration. The whole of the laſt act is narrative, and is taken up entirely with the hiſtory of Amyntas' fall, and the happy change produced in the heart of the rigorous Silvia, when ſhe found her lover thus miraculouſly preſerved from the cruel death to which her barbarity had prompted him to expoſe himſelf.

Yet the fable of the Aminta, unnatural and undramatic as it is, has the merit of ſimplicity. That of the Paſtor Fido, equally unnatural and incredible, has the additional demerit of being complicated as well as abſurd. The diſtreſs of Amyntas, ariſing from an adequate and natural cauſe—rejected love, excites our ſympathy; but the diſtreſs in the Paſtor Fidow is altogether chimerical; we have no ſympathy with the calamities ariſing from the indignation of Diana, or the ſuppoſed neceſſity of accompliſhing the abſurd and whimſical reſponſe of an oracle. We cannot be affected by the paſſions of fictitious beings. The love of a ſatyr has nothing in it but what is odious and diſguſting.

The defects of theſe celebrated poems have ariſen from the erroneous idea

* In the quarto of 1728, the following note is ſubjoined to the firſt ſcene of the Gentle Shepherd:—"This firſt ſcene is the only piece in this volume that was "printed in the firſt: having carried the paſtoral the length of five acts, at the "deſire of ſome perſons of diſtinction, I was obliged to print this preluding ſcene "with the reſt."

idea entertained by their authors, that the province of this ſpecies of poetry was not to imitate nature, but to paint that chimerical ſtate of ſociety, which is termed the golden age. Mr Addiſon, who, in the Guardian, has treated the ſubject of paſtoral poetry at conſiderable length, has drawn his critical rules from that abſurd principle; for he lays it down as a maxim, that, to form a right judgment of paſtoral poetry, it is neceſſary to caſt back our eyes on the firſt ages of the world, and inquire into the manners of men, "before "they were formed into large ſocie-"ties, cities built, or commerce eſta-"bliſhed: a ſtate," ſays he, "of "eaſe, innocence, and contentment; "where plenty begot pleaſure, and "pleaſure begot ſinging, and ſinging "begot poetry, and poetry begot "ſinging again:" a deſcription this, which is ſo fantaſtical, as would almoſt perſuade us, that the writer meant to ridicule his own doctrine, if the general ſtrain of his criticiſm did not convince us it was ſeriouſly delivered. Is it neceſſary to prove, that this notion of paſtoral poetry, however founded in the practice of celebrated writers, has no foundation in fact, no baſis in reaſon, nor conformity to good ſenſe? To a juſt taſte, and unadulterated feelings, the natural beauties of the country, the ſimple manners, ruſtic occupations, and rural enjoyments of its inhabitants, brought into view by the medium of a well-contrived dramatic fable, muſt afford a much higher degree of pleaſure, than any chimerical fiction, in which Arcadian nymphs and ſwains hold intercourſe with Pan and his attendant fauns and ſatyrs. If the poſition be diſputed, let the Gentle Shepherd be fairly compared with the Aminta and Paſtor Fido.

The ſtory of the Gentle Shepherd is fitted to excite the warmeſt intereſt, becauſe the ſituations, into which the characters are thrown, are ſtrongly affecting, whilſt they are ſtrictly conſonant to nature and probability. The whole of the fable is authorized by the circumſtances of the times in which the action of the piece is laid. The æra of Cromwell's uſurpation, when many a loyal ſubject, ſharing the misfortunes of his exiled ſovereign, were ſtripped of their eſtates, and then left to the neglect and deſolation of forfeiture; the neceſſity under which thoſe unhappy ſufferers often lay, of leaving their infant progeny under the charge of ſome humble but attached dependant, till better days ſhould dawn upon their fortunes; the criminal advantages taken by falſe friends in uſurping the rights of the ſufferers, and ſecuring themſelves againſt future queſtion by deeds of guilt; theſe circumſtances, too well founded in truth, and nature, are ſufficient to account for every particular in this moſt intereſting drama, and give it perfect veriſimilitude.

The fables of the Aminta and Paſtor Fido, drawn from a ſtate of ſociety which never had an exiſtence, are, for that reaſon, incapable of exciting any high degree of intereſt; and the mind cannot for a moment remain under the influence of that deception, which it is the great purpoſe of the drama to produce.

The characters or perſons of the Italian paſtorals are coy nymphs and ſwains, whoſe ſole occupation is hunting wild beaſts, brutal ſatyrs who plot againſt the chaſtity of thoſe nymphs, ſhepherds deriving their origin from the gods, ſtupid prieſts of theſe gods who are the dupes of their ambiguous will, and gods themſelves diſguiſed like ſhepherds, and influencing the conduct and iſſue of the piece. The manners of theſe unnatural and fictitious beings are proper to their ideal character. A dull moralizing chorus is found neceſſary to explain what the characters themſelves

ſelves muſt have left untold, or unintelligible.

The perſons of the Scottiſh paſtoral are the actual inhabitants of the country where the ſcene is laid; their manners are drawn from nature with a faithful pencil. The contraſt of the different characters is happily imagined, and ſupported with conſummate ſkill. Patie, of a cheerful and ſanguine temperament; ſpirited, yet free from vain ambition; contented with his humble lot; endowed by nature with a ſuperior underſtanding, and feeling in himſelf thoſe internal ſources of ſatisfaction, which are independent of the adventitious circumſtances of rank and fortune. Roger, of a grave and phlegmatic conſtitution; of kind affections, but of that ordinary turn of mind, which is apt to ſuppoſe ſome neceſſary connection between the poſſeſſion of wealth and felicity. The former, from native dignity of character, aſſuming a bold pre-eminence, and acting the part of a tutor and counſellor to his friend, who bends, tho' with ſome reluctance, to the authority of a nobler mind. The principal female characters are contraſted with ſimilar ſkill, and equal power of diſcrimination. Peggy, beautiful in perſon as in mind, endowed with every quality that can adorn the character of women; gentle, tender-hearted, conſtant in affection, free from vanity as from caprice; of excellent underſtanding; judging of others by the criterion of her own innocent mind, and therefore forming the moſt amiable views of human nature. Jenny, ſenſible and affectionate, ſprightly and ſatirical; poſſeſſing the ordinary qualities of her ſex, ſelf-love, ſimulation, and the paſſion of conqueſt; and pleaſed with exerciſing a capricious dominion over the mind of a lover; judging of mankind rather from the cold maxims of inſtilled prudential caution, than from the native ſuggeſtions of the heart.—A contraſt of characters ſtrongly and ſkilfully oppoſed, and therefore each moſt admirably fitted to bring the other into full diſplay.

(To be continued.)

SKETCH OF THE CHARACTER OF THE LATE REV. DR THOMAS HARDY, PROFESSOR OF ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURH, &c.

Given at the concluſion of a Sermon, preached by the Rev. Dr Gloag, *in the New North Church, Edinburgh, on 24th November* 1798, *from* Pſalm xxxix. 12. "*O Lord, I "am a ſtranger with thee, and a ſojourner, as all my fathers were.*"

IT hath pleaſed God, my dear friends, to give you and me a ſtriking and melancholy proof of the doctrine in the text, by the death of your late worthy Paſtor, and my reverend Colleague, Dr Thomas Hardy. At a very early period of life he was bereaved of his father, and left to the care of his widowed mother; whoſe aged heart now bleeds afreſh, from the recent wound it hath received, by the death of her only, her affectionate, her dutiful, and moſt accompliſhed ſon. As ſhe reared him up, however, under the direction of a kind Providence, to youth and manhood, ſhe had the heartfelt pleaſure of obſerving, that the great talents and abilities, the amiable graces and diſpoſitions, with which God had amply enriched him, were beginning then, like the flowers of Spring, gradually to unfold and diſcloſe themſelves. When he entered on public life, and engaged in the work and duties of a Miniſter of the Goſpel of Chriſt, it ſoon appeared, that the high expectations that had been formed of him, were juſt and well-founded. His perception was quick;

quick; his judgment clear and ſolid; his memory correct; his taſte pure and elegant; and his elocution manly and fluent. Intimately connected with theſe great qualities, were the diſpoſitions and virtues of his heart. He was a man of ſtrict honour, probity, and truth; an agreeable companion; a good neighbour; a firm and ſteady friend. Neither frivolous and inſipid on the one hand, nor ſour and bigotted on the other, his temper was calm, regular and equal; and his manners, of courſe, were eaſy, affable, and obliging. He was an affectionate Huſband; a kind and tender-hearted Father; and an indulgent Maſter.

In the public exerciſe of his ſacred function, he diſplayed, to the glory of God, the honour and credit of our divine religion, and the inſtruction and benefit of all who heard him, the truth and importance of the Goſpel of Jeſus; and the direct and powerful tendency it hath, to promote the true happineſs of man, both as an individual, and as a member of ſociety; as a ſtranger on earth and as a candidate for heaven. Of this ſubject he had a thorough knowledge; and treated it, in the courſe of his lectures, delivered in this church, in an able, maſterly, and perſuaſive manner; as many of you, my friends, I dare ſay, do ſtill recollect with pleaſure and delight.—As a Teacher, alſo, in the celebrated Univerſity of this city, he ſhone, while it pleaſed God to give him health, with peculiar and diſtinguiſhed luſtre. The plan, or method, of his lectures there, was diſtinct, clear, and luminous; his illuſtrations were full of uſeful erudition, inſtruction, and entertainment; his ſtyle was energetic, pure, and elegant; and his manner of delivery was manly, graceful, and pleaſant.—As to my own perſonal connection with him, it may be proper juſt to obſerve, that, for the ſpace of almoſt twelve years, he was united with me in the paſtoral care of this congregation: and, though we ſometimes differed in opinion and ſentiment on certain ſubjects, yet that difference of opinion never made the leaſt breach on our affection and regard to each other; or occaſioned the ſmalleſt interruption to our ſocial intercourſe and mutual friendſhip.

It remains, now, only to add, that in the caſe of the late reſpectable and amiable Dr Hardy, we have a beautiful proof of the immortality of the ſoul; and of its being neither impaired, nor weakened, by the afflictions of the body. His mind—his better part, remained ſtrong and vigorous; while his body was declining apace, and reduced almoſt to a ſhadow. Though he knew, and felt, that he was ſoon to die; and that his tedious and lingering illneſs, which he ſuſtained with exemplary patience, muſt in a ſhort time come to a period: yet he beheld the ſlow, and ſolemn approach of death, with dignified compoſure, and took his final leave of this world, with a devout and Chriſtian ſubmiſſion to the will of God. "Mark the perfect man, my brethren, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace. Bleſſed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth: yea, ſaith the Spirit, that they may reſt from their labours, and their works do follow them." Let all of us learn, from hence, ſo to number our days, as to apply our hearts to Divine Wiſdom; and, while we ſojourn on earth, to have our converſation in heaven; from whence we expect the return of our great Redeemer, "to change our vile body, that it may be faſhioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working, whereby he is able even to ſubdue all things unto himſelf." Happy, happy, happy are all they who are enabled by grace to ſay with an holy Apoſtle, "To me, to live is Chriſt; and to die, is gain."

WILLIAM BAGSHAW STEVENS was born, in 1756, at Abingdon, where his father was an apothecary; and was brought up at the ſchool of his native town. Thence he removed to Oxford, and was elected a demy of Magdalen college in 1772; from which, though many years elapſed before the vacancy of his proper county occurred, he at length ſucceeded to a fellowſhip in 1794.

He was very early diſtinguiſhed for his poetical talents, and publiſhed ſome poems, intituled, "Indian Odes," in 1775, when an undergraduate. It was probably ſoon after he had taken his firſt degree, at leaſt it was not later than 1778, that he engaged as an aſſiſtant to Dr Prior, at the ſchool of Repton, in Derbyſhire, which had long been a favourite ſeminary of the neighbouring gentry; but, poſſibly owing to the maſter's increaſing age, began then to ſhew ſymptoms of a rapid declenſion. At Dr Prior's death, which happened in 1779, Mr Stevens, then in orders, was appointed his ſucceſſor, almoſt immediately on taking his degree of A. M. Whether the ſeeds of decay, which were already ſown, could not now by any common efforts be ſuppreſſed, or whether the indolent and abſtracted habits of a poetical and independant mind rather foſtered than counteracted what a dull and prudent man, with ſcarcely a ſpark of Mr Stevens's ſcholarſhip, might have eaſily overcome, it muſt be in candour admitted, that the ſchool gradually diminiſhed in the number of its ſcholars during his time, notwithſtanding his great exertions at firſt, and the very creditable manner in which the Siege of Damaſcus, and other theatrical repreſentations were there performed by his ſcholars, before a very numerous and polite audience, in 1780.

In 1782, Mr Stevens publiſhed, in quarto, a poem in blank verſe, intituled, "Retirement*;" to which were added three or four ſhort pieces. From this period he was a frequent correſpondent of the Gentleman's Magazine under the ſignature M. C. S. *(viz. Madg. Coll. Semiſoc.)* among which are many pieces of poetry, and many of criticiſm, particularly on our old Engliſh bards; and in vol. LVI. p. 1109, may be ſeen ſome diſcuſſion of his merits as a writer by Mr H. White, of Lichfield, the friend and ſtrenuous defender of Miſs Seward, who is particularly mentioned in an elegant ſonnet of Stevens's upon Lichfield in 1783, as printed in Mr Shaw's Hiſtory of Staffordſhire. Vol. I. pp. 343, 344.)

"And here the flower of England's virgin train,
Boaſt of our iſle, Lichfield's peculiar pride;
Here Seward caught the dew-drops of her ſtrain
From Grief and Fancy's magic-mingled tide.
Exult, fair city, and indulge the praiſe,
A grateful ſtranger to thy glory pays."

Before Mr Mundy's exquiſite deſcriptive poem, "Needwood Foreſt," (a poem which it is ſingularly ſtrange that the delicacy of the author will not ſuffer to be publiſhed†), is a ſonnet by Mr Stevens; and ſome ſtanzas by him, dated Repton, Nov. 28, 1788, are prefixed to the firſt book of Dr Darwin's Botanic Garden.

In the Topographer, II. 39, 40, are three idyls by him.

The

* The Rev. Mr S. Shaw now poſſeſſes an early MS. copy of "Retirement," differing much from that printed poem, and in many reſpects ſuperior to it, as being freer from thoſe unnatural and encumbered expreſſions too often created by over-ſtudied corrections.

† See long extracts from it in Mr Shaw's Staffordſhire, vol. I. p. 68.

The ſcene of theſe elegant idyls is the river Trent; and the ſubject of the ſecond the hermitage of Anchor church on the banks of that intereſting river, within the grounds of the late Sir Robert Burdett at Foremark, as more fully deſcribed in the above pages; where, alſo, p. 249, 279, &c. are full accounts, with engravings, of Repton ſchool and church, &c.

The hoſpitable houſe of Foremark afforded, indeed, during all the poet's long reſidence at Repton, till the late death of the aged poſſeſſor, a table at which he was always welcome, and where he had an opportunity of mixing with a variety of people of fortune and rank. Mr Stevens performed the ſervice of the ſmall church within the grounds, and officiated as chaplain at the houſe.

On Sir Robert's death, Mr Stevens became equally a favourite of his grandſon and ſucceſſor, Sir Francis; who, on the death of the Rev. Stebbing Shaw, Jan. 31, 1799, (the father of the Staffordſhire Hiſtorian), preſented him to the rectory of Seckindon, in Warwickſhire; to which was added, by Mr Coutts's intereſt, the vicarage of Kingſbury, in the gift of the Crown. About this time too, he had ſucceeded to a fellowſhip of his college, on which occaſion he took the degree of Doctor of Divinity, ſo that his income became, comparatively at leaſt, affluent.

But Providence did not permit him long to enjoy a ſtate of circumſtances, to which he had probably looked for many years with a fond impatience. About May 24, 1800, he ſunk from his chair in a fit of apoplexy; and, after remaining three or four days inſenſible, died on the 28th of that month, aged 44. He was unmarried, and left only a ſingle ſiſter who reſided with him, whom it is but juſt to add that Sir Francis Burdett has ſince made very comfortable for life by a moſt generous gift of 100l. a year.

It is not eaſy to delineate the character of a man whom we never ſaw but once on a viſit of two or three days, and with whoſe general acquaintance one has never converſed; but without a character, what are mere dates and titles of publications? I will venture, therefore, if it be but to provoke the idle pens of thoſe friends who knew him better! Dr Stevens became a candidate for poetical fame ſo very early in life, that this circumſtance had an effect on all his habits and attainments. I do not mean that they all tended to that point; ſo far from it, that as a very youthful mind, poſſeſſed of that warmth and enthuſiaſm which attends a poetical genius, can never be ſatisfied with the faint and feeble praiſe that the chilling and fatal teſt of publication ſeems to prove it alone entitled to, he very ſoon probably relaxed the courſe of induſtry and exertion, by which they, whom he had far out-ſtripped at ſtarting, in due time paſſed him by; and, growing diſguſted and indifferent, indulged himſelf in picking the flowers that caſually tempted him at the foot of Parnaſſus!

"Meads lowing, tune of birds, and lapſe of ſtreams,
And ſaunter with a book, and warbling muſe
In praiſe of hawthorns.—Life's whole buſineſs this!
Is it to baſk i' the ſun: If ſo, a ſnail
Were happy crawling on a Southern wall."

——————"Think of ſome
Aſſiduous booby mounted o'er your head,
And thence with ſaucy grandeur looking down:
Think of (Reflection's ſtab!) the pitying friend
With ſhoulder ſhrugg'd and ſorry *!"

Stevens, though from the time of his

* Dr Sneyd Davies's beautiful epiſtle againſt indolence.

his firſt publication he ſeems to have withdrawn all regular courtſhip or opinion of the muſe, could not forbear, during every ſubſequent period of his life, to pay her occaſional homage and offerings. But he ſeemed too often to do it by ſtealth, and to be aſhamed of the indulgence. He appeared not to love to own his native propenſities, and too often in company to range himſelf on the ſide of the ſtupid and the ſenſual, and to join in the ſneer and the laugh againſt the unſolid abſtractions of intellectual pleaſures.

This ſeemed to me a weakneſs, but not very unlike what was poſſeſſed by greater men, who had not the ſame excuſes for it. Congreve and Gray could not endure to be noticed as authors, but as gentlemen who wrote for their amuſement. So Stevens, when he took the part of what is triumphantly called practical ſenſe, againſt what is termed in deriſion book-learning, deſerted a higher character, to which he had conſiderable pretenſions, for one which all his natural endowments and early acquiſitions ill-qualified him for, and which, had it really belonged to him, would have degraded him in the opinion of all reflecting minds. He was on the firſt approach ſhy, reſerved, and awkward; but on more familiar acquaintance became frank and undiſguiſed; yet could never have attained the eaſe and flexibility of a man of the world.

He was perhaps from nature, or early diſguſt, or the abſtracted occupations of his own mind, too indifferent to the good opinions of thoſe for whom he had no particular friendſhip; and, therefore, did not take ſufficient pains to counteract the cenſures of that neglect which was probably the conſequence rather than the cauſe of the decay of his ſchool. But his temper was good, his heart was benevolent; he was a grateful and affectionate ſon, a kind brother, and unfeignedly beloved by his friends. In whatever unelevated ſentiments againſt the better impulſes of his heart diſappointment might induce him to indulge, he was ingenuous and undiſguiſed; ſo that they appeared venial affectations, rather than inherent defects.

On his poetical powers I may ſafely venture to confer general praiſe; but to diſcriminate the peculiar nature of his genius, is a more difficult and doubtful taſk. His Indian Odes I only once ſaw, more than eleven years ago; and his "Retirement," which I formerly poſſeſſed, I have by ſome means loſt. Stevens's talent was turned to deſcriptive poetry. Collins, who had once been of the ſame college, was one of his models, and he had ſtudied him with uncommon attention; yet he did not always imitate him with ſucceſs. But who can hope to follow with equal ſteps a bard, who, in his ſublime Ode to the Paſſions, has produced a juſt rival to Dryden's immortal compoſition on Alexander's feaſt? Stevens was never trite to proſaic; his fancy was copious, and his language rich; but, like his model, he was more attentive to imagery than ſentiment. In ſearch of metaphor and perſonification, he is apt to deviate too far from ſimplicity; and becomes ſometimes encumbered, harſh, and tireſomely pompous. When he imitates Horace, therefore, whoſe eaſy felicity of language could never yet be approached, he is peculiarly unfortunate in the attempt to produce a likeneſs.

If Stevens had "the words that burn," he too much wanted "the thoughts that breathe." Thought, indeed, ſeems ſeldom with him to predominate over expreſſion. This was the faſhion of the period when he firſt became a candidate for fame; but the faſhion, as is always the caſe, has nearly exhauſted itſelf. The exceſs, to which it was carried by the Della-Cruſca ſchool, drew on it all

that

that juſt ridicule which has almoſt put an end to it. Stevens, however, was of a very different caſt from theſe wretched ſcribblers. His poetry was not a cluſter of gorgeous words huddled together without order or meaning.

His images were drawn, not from his memory, but his fancy; his combinations were original; and, if he ſometimes, like his models, became obſcure, he was often vigorous and happy.

There were ſurely times at which he felt the genuine impulſe of the Muſe, and touched the true chords of the lyre; and had he, inſtead of ſuffering the damps of early diſappointment to repreſs his exertions, regularly continued to cultivate his poetical talents, there are few to whom he would have needed to yield the laurel.

I doubt whether this character will ſatisfy the fondneſs of friendſhip. But let it be remembered, that indiſcriminate panegyric defeats its own intentions; for it neither excites intereſt, nor gains credit. If they who knew Dr Stevens better had done what affection ſeemed to dictate, this memoir would never have been written. Let them, therefore, anſwer for its defects! *F. S.*

EXTRACTS FROM CHARLES GRANT VISCOUNT DE VAUX'S HISTORY OF THE MAURITIUS, OR THE ISLE OF FRANCE.

Manners of the Inhabitants.

THE Iſle of France was an abſolute deſert when Maſcaregnas diſcovered it. The French who firſt eſtabliſhed themſelves there, were certain planters from the Iſle of Bourbon, who brought with them ſimplicity of manners, good faith, an hoſpitable diſpoſition, and an indifference for riches. M. de la Bourdonnais, who may, in ſome degree, be conſidered as the founder of this colony, brought ſome workmen along with him. When, however, he had rendered this iſland intereſting by his labours, and it was thought convenient as a ſtaple for their commerce of the Indies, perſons of all conditions ſettled in it.

The agents of the Company, who poſſeſſed all the principal employments in the iſland, exerciſed too much of that financial diſpoſition, which is diſcouraging to thoſe who are employed in cultivating the earth. The whole of the public eſtabliſhment was at their diſpoſal; they, at the ſame time, controlled the police, the civil adminiſtration, and magazines of the iſland; ſome of them cleared the land and built houſes, all of which they diſpoſed of, at a very high price, to thoſe who had ventured hither, in hope of advancing their fortune. There was conſequently a great outcry againſt them; but the power was in their hands, and complaint was of no avail.

Several perſons in the marine ſervice of the Company ſettled here. They had long complained, that while they encountered dangers and ſuffered fatigues in ſupport of the Eaſt Indian commerce, others acquired the honours and emoluments of it. As this ſettlement was ſo near to India, a ſanguine hope of advantage from fixing in it animated their mind, and they became its inhabitants.

Several military officers of the Company arrived here; they were very reſpectable perſons, and ſome of them diſtinguiſhed for their birth. They could not imagine that an officer would debaſe himſelf ſo far as to receive orders from a man who had formerly been a clerk in an accompting-houſe, though he might condeſcend

ſcend to receive their pay. Nor did they like the ſailors, who are rather too peremptory in their manners. On becoming inhabitants, they retained their original diſpoſition, and conſequently did not advance their fortunes.

Some of the king's regiments put in here and made ſome ſtay; while ſeveral of the officers, allured by the beauty of the climate and the love of repoſe, were induced to eſtabliſh themſelves in the iſland: but every thing was at the diſpoſition, and ſubmitted to the power of the Company.

The inhabitants were alſo increaſed by the arrival of ſome miſſionaries of the order of St Lazarus.

To complete the ſettlement of this iſland, ſome merchants with ſmall capitals arrived, and found it without commerce. Theſe people augmented the abuſes of money-jobbing, which they found already eſtabliſhed, and employed themſelves in forming petty monopolies: they ſoon became obnoxious, and acquired the name of *Banians*, and *Jews*. On the other hand, they affected to deſpiſe any particular diſtinctions of the inhabitants, and were fond of propagating the opinion, that, after having paſſed the line, a general equality prevailed.

Such was the ſituation of this colony when it was ceded to the king in the year 1765.

One part of the inhabitants, who were attached to the Company from gratitude, beheld, with pain, a royal adminiſtration; while the other part, who had ſo long looked for favour from a new government, ſeeing it principally occupied in plans of economy, were proportionably chagrined and diſappointed.

The ſoldiers furniſh a conſiderable number of workmen, as the moderate heat permits the white people to work in the open air; though they have not been rendered ſo beneficial to the colony as they might have been, in a more enlarged diſpoſition of their capacities.

Though the ſeafaring people are always going and coming, they have, nevertheleſs, a conſiderable influence on the manners of the colony. Their policy is to complain alike of the places which they left, and of thoſe at which they arrive: they have always bought too dear and ſold too cheap, and think they are ruined if they do not gain an hundred and fifty per cent.

An hogſhead of claret coſts five hundred livres, and every thing elſe in proportion. It is ſcarce credible, that the merchandiſe of Europe is dearer here than in India; and that Indian commodities fetch a higher price here than in Europe. The maritime people are ſo neceſſary to the inhabitants, that they are held in great conſideration.

The greater part of the married people live on their plantations; and the women ſeldom viſit the town but when they are tempted by a ball, or are called to perform ſome eſſential duties of their religion. They are paſſionately fond of dancing; and no ſooner is a ball announced, than they come in their palanquins from every quarter, as the roads will not admit of wheel carriages.

The women have but little colour, but they are well made, and, in general, handſome. Nature has given them a conſiderable portion of wit and vivacity; and if their education were not neglected, their ſociety would be very agreeable: they are very fond mothers; and if they ever fail in fidelity to the marriage vow, it is too often owing to the indifference of their huſbands, or to the Pariſian manners which have been introduced among them. Their ordinary dreſs is fine muſlin, lined with roſe-coloured taffetas.

They poſſeſs, in a great degree, the more eſtimable domeſtic qualities; they ſeldom or never drink any thing but

but water, and their cleanlineſs is extreme. Their children are never confined in ſwaddling clothes, but run about almoſt as ſoon as they are born; they are often bathed, and allowed to eat fruit at their own diſcretion. As they are left entirely to themſelves, and are uncontrolled by the ſuperintendence of education, they ſoon become ſtrong and robuſt, and their temperament advances in proportion. The females are ſometimes married at eleven years of age.

There are about four hundred planters in this iſland, and about an hundred women of ſuperior rank, not more than ten of whom live in the town. On firing the evening gun at eight o'clock, every one retires to his own habitation.

Account of the Blacks.

Of the population of this iſland, we muſt conſider the Indians and Negroes as forming a conſiderable proportion.

The firſt are from the coaſt of Malabar, and are a very mild and gentle people: they come from Pondicherry, and let themſelves out for a certain number of years. They are almoſt all of them workmen, and occupy a ſuburb which is called the Black Camp; they are of a deeper colour than the iſlanders of Madagaſcar, who are real Negroes, have the features of Europeans, and their hair is not woolly: they are ſober and economical. Their head is dreſſed with a turban, and they wear long dreſſes of muſlin, with large gold earrings, and ſilver bracelets at the wriſts. There are ſome who enter into the ſervice of the rich and titled inhabitants, as *pions*; a kind of domeſtic, which anſwers to the character of an European running footman: his peculiar diſtinction is a cane in his hand, and a dagger at his girdle. It were to be wiſhed that there were a greater number of the inhabitants of Malabar eſtabliſhed in this iſland, particularly of the caſt of huſbandmen.

At preſent, Madagaſcar furniſhes the Negroes which are deſtined to cultivate the land in the Iſle of Bourbon. The common price of one of them is a barrel of gunpowder, a few muſkets, ſome pieces of cloth, and, above all, a certain proportion of piaſtres. The deareſt of them coſts about fifty crowns of France (in 1768.)

Theſe people have neither ſo flat a noſe, nor ſo dark a complexion, as thoſe of Guinea: ſome of them are only brown; while others, as the Balambous, have long hair: nay, others of them have fair, and even red hair. They are dexterous, intelligent, and have a ſenſe of honour and gratitude. The greateſt inſult which can be offered to one of theſe people, is to ſpeak diſreſpectfully of his family; they are far leſs ſenſible to perſonal injuries. In their own country they work up various articles, with equal ingenuity and induſtry. Their zagay, or half-pike, is very well forged, though a couple of ſtones form their hammer and their anvil. The linens which their women weave are very fine and well dyed; theſe they caſt around them in a graceful form, and the manner in which they arrange their hair produces a pleaſing headdreſs; it conſiſts of curls and treſſes very taſtefully blended with each other, and is the work of the women. They are paſſionately fond of dancing and muſic; their inſtrument is the tantam, which is a bow fixed to a gourd, from whence they draw a ſoft harmonious ſound, with which they accompany the airs that they compoſe. Love is the general ſubject of them, and the girls dance to the ſongs of their lovers: the ſpectators beat time and applaud.

They are very hoſpitable. A black who is on a journey, enters without previous ceremony, or being known to the owner, into any hut which ſuits his convenience; and thoſe whom

whom he finds in it moſt willingly ſhare their meal with him. Nor is it their cuſtom to aſk from whence he comes, or whither he is going.

Such are the qualifications and manners with which they arrive at the Iſle of France. They are all diſembarked with no clothing of any kind, but a ſtrip of linen round their loins. The men are placed on one ſide of the beach, and the women with their children on the other. The planters then examine them, and make their purchaſes accordingly. Brothers, ſiſters, friends, and lovers, are now ſeparated, and are led away to the reſpective plantations to which they are deſtined. Sometimes, in the paroxyſms of their deſpair, they imagine that the white people are preparing to eat them, that they make red wine of their blood, and gunpowder of their bones.

Their manner of life is as follows: at daybreak, the ſmacking of a whip is the ſignal that calls them to their work; and they then proceed to the plantation, where they labour in a ſtate of almoſt entire nakedneſs, and in the heat of the ſun. Their nouriſhment is ground maize boiled in water, or loaves of the manioc; and a ſmall piece of cloth is their only covering. For the leaſt act of negligence, they are tied hand and foot to a ladder, when the overſeer gives them a certain number of ſtrokes on their back, with a long whip; and with a three-pointed collar claſped round their necks, they are brought back to their work. It is not neceſſary to deſcribe the ſeverity with which theſe puniſhments are ſometimes inflicted. On their return to their habitations in the evening, they are compelled to pray to God for the proſperity of their maſters.

There is a ſubſiſting law in favour of ſlaves, called the *Code Noir*; which ordains that they ſhall receive no more than thirty ſtrokes at each chaſtiſement; that they ſhall not work on Sundays; that meat ſhall be given them every week, and ſhirts every year: but this law is not obſerved.

The Negroes are naturally of a lively diſpoſition, but their ſtate of ſlavery ſoon renders them melancholy. Love alone ſeems to allay their pain: they exert themſelves to the utmoſt in order to obtain a wife; and, if they can chooſe for themſelves, they always prefer thoſe who are advanced into a ſtate of womanhood, who, they ſay, make the beſt ſoup. They immediately give them all they poſſeſs; and if their wives live in another plantation, they will undertake the moſt difficult and dangerous journies to ſee them. On ſuch occaſions they fear neither fatigue nor puniſhment. Parties of them ſometimes meet in the middle of the night, when they dance beneath the ſhelter of a rock, to the mournful ſound of a gourd filled with peas.

The diſcontented Negroes generally fly for refuge into the woods where they are purſued by detachments of ſoldiers: when they are taken they are puniſhed with great ſeverity; and the third offence of this kind is followed by death.

Religion is, indeed, ſometimes employed to alleviate the evils of their ſituation. Some of them are occaſionally baptized; they are then told that they are become the brethren of the white people, and that they will go into paradiſe; but it is not an eaſy matter to perſuade them, that the Europeans will ever prove their guides to heaven.

It is not for us to diſcuſs, in this place, the ſubject of ſlavery, on which very able writers have differed, and with which volumes have been filled. That diſcipline, and ſometimes a ſevere one, may be neceſſary in the management of plantations, cannot be denied, and that the owners ſometimes exerciſe their power with unneceſſary rigour, muſt alſo be acknow-

acknowledged; at the ſame time it would be ridiculous to aſſert that, becauſe a white man is the maſter of a plantation, he muſt be cruel, and becauſe a black man is a ſlave, he muſt be wretched.

Adventures of a Princeſs of Ruſſia, at Mauritius, &c.

[The Baron Grant*, in his Letters X. and XI. written in the years 1750 and 1751, deſcribes, in a very intereſting manner, the ſcenes of domeſtic life in that country; but we ſhall content ourſelves with extracting one of the principal facts mentioned in the firſt of theſe two letters, and in the ſecret memoirs of Mr Duclos, concerning the curious hiſtory of the Princeſs of Wolfenbuttel, who paſſed ſome years at the Iſles of France and Bourbon, during the reſidence of Baron Grant there.]

"Charlotte Chriſtina Sophia de Wolfenbuttel, wife of Czarovitz Alexis, ſon of Peter I. Czar of Muſcovy, and ſiſter of the Empreſs of Charles VI. was born the 25th of Auguſt 1694. This princeſs, though poſſeſſed of beauty, grace, and virtue, in a very high degree, became an object of averſion to her huſband, a man of a moſt ferocious and ſavage character. He had ſeveral times attempted to poiſon her, when ſhe was ſaved by counteracting medicines.

"At length, he one day gave her ſuch a violent kick on her belly, when ſhe was eight months advanced in her pregnancy, that ſhe fell ſenſeleſs on the floor, which was ſoon encrimſoned with her blood. Peter I. was then engaged in one of his journies. His ſon, having every reaſon to believe that his unfortunate princeſs would not recover, ſet off immediately for his country-houſe.

The Counteſs of Koniſmarck, mother of Marſhal de Saxe, attended on the princeſs when ſhe was brought to bed of a dead child, and nurſed her with unceaſing care. Being ſenſible, however, if the princeſs recovered, that ſhe would periſh ſooner or later from the brutal nature of the Czarovitz, ſhe formed a plan to gain over the women belonging to the princeſs, to declare that ſhe and the infant were both dead. The Czarovitz accordingly ordered her to be interred without delay and without ceremony. Couriers were diſpatched to the Czar to inform him of the event, and all the courts of Europe put on mourning for the bundle of ſticks which was interred.

"In the mean time the princeſs, who had been removed to a retired ſpot, recovered her health and ſtrength; when, poſſeſſed of ſome jewels, with a ſum of money which the Counteſs of Koniſmarck had procured for her, and clothed in the dreſs of common life, ſhe ſet off for Paris, accompanied by an old German domeſtic, who paſſed for her father. She made but a ſhort ſtay there, and having hired a female ſervant, proceeded to a ſea-port, and embarked for Louiſiana.

"Her figure attracted the notice of the inhabitants; and an officer of the colony, named D'Auband, who had been in Ruſſia, recollected her.

"It was however with ſome difficulty that he could perſuade himſelf of the reality of what he ſaw. Indeed it was ſcarce poſſible to believe that a woman in ſuch a ſituation could be the daughter-in-law of the Czar Peter. However, to aſcertain the truth, he offered his ſervices to the pretended father, and at length formed an intimate friendſhip with him; ſo that they agreed to furniſh an houſe, and live together at their common expence.

"Some time afterwards, the Gazettes which arrived in the colony announced the death of the Czarowitz.

* The Hiſtory of Mauritius is compoſed principally from the papers of Baron Grant, the Viſcount's father, who reſided 20 years in the iſland. *Editor*

witz. D'Auband then declared to the princeſs his knowledge of her, and offered to abandon every thing in order to conduct her to Ruſſia.

" But ſhe, finding herſelf infinitely more happy than when ſhe was within the verge of royalty, refuſed to ſacrifice the tranquillity of her obſcure ſituation, for all that ambition could offer her. She only exacted a promiſe from D'Auband to maintain the moſt inviolable ſecrecy, as well as conduct himſelf towards her as he had hitherto done.

" He made the moſt ſolemn declaration that he would obey her commands; and it became his intereſt to be faithful. The beauty, underſtanding, and virtues of the princeſs, had made a very deep impreſſion on him, and habitual intercourſe had ſerved to ſtrengthen it. He was amiable and young, and ſhe was not inſenſible to his attentions. They continued, however, to live in their uſual way, but became every day dearer to each other.

" The old domeſtic, who paſſed for the father of the princeſs, at length died; and ſhe could no longer, according to the rules of decorum, live with D'Auband as ſhe had hitherto done, under the apparent authority and protection of a parent. In this delicate ſituation, D'Auband unfolded to her the diſpoſitions and ſentiments of his heart; and propoſed to add a new veil to her real condition, by becoming her huſband. She conſented to his propoſition; and this princeſs, who had been deſtined to wear the crown of Ruſſia, and whoſe ſiſter actually wore that of the German empire, became the wife of a lieutenant of infantry. In the firſt year of her marriage ſhe had a daughter, whom ſhe nurſed and educated herſelf, and inſtructed in the French and German languages.

" They had lived ten years in this happy ſtate of mediocrity, when D'Auband was attacked by the fiſtula; and his wife, alarmed at the danger which generally accompanies the operation neceſſary for the cure of that diſorder, inſiſted that it ſhould be performed at Paris.

" They accordingly ſold their habitation, and embarked on the firſt veſſel that ſailed for France. On their arrival at Paris, D'Auband was attended by the moſt ſkilful ſurgeons; and till his cure was completed, his wife never quitted him for a moment, nor ſuffered any other perſon to perform the tender offices which were neceſſary in his ſituation: ſhe waited upon him throughout his illneſs with the moſt watchful and patient affection. On his recovery, D'Auband, in order to ſecure to her the little fortune which he poſſeſſed, ſolicited from the Eaſt India Company an employment in the Iſle of Bourbon, where he was appointed major.

" While he was engaged in ſoliciting this buſineſs, his wife ſometimes went to take the air with her daughter, in the gardens of the Thuilleries. One day as ſhe was ſitting upon a bench, and talking with her daughter in German, that ſhe might not be underſtood by thoſe who were near her, Marſhal de Saxe paſſed by, and hearing two ladies ſpeak his own tongue, ſtopped to look at them. The mother lifting up her eyes and recollecting the Marſhal, inſtantly threw them to the ground; when he, ſtill more attracted by her embarraſſment, ſuddenly exclaimed, " Is it poſſible, Madam!" She did not, however, permit him to finiſh the ſentence, but riſing from the ſeat, begged him to accompany her to a more retired part of the garden, where ſhe acknowledged herſelf; and, after having requeſted his entire ſecrecy, invited him to ſee her at her own habitation, when ſhe would inform him of every thing which concerned her.

" On the following day Marſhal de Saxe paid her a viſit, and heard the recital of her adventures, as well

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as the ſhare which the Counteſs of Koniſmarck, his mother, had in them. She conjured him, at the ſame time, not to reveal any thing reſpecting her to the king, till a negociation which her huſband was agitating was concluded, and which would be completed in three months. The marſhal ſolemnly promiſed to comply with her requeſt, and paid his viſits to her and her huſband in the moſt ſecret manner.

"The three months being almoſt expired, the marſhal, on calling to ſee her, was informed, that ſhe and her huſband had quitted Paris two days before, and that M. D'Auband had been named to a majority in the Iſle of Bourbon.

"On this information, the marſhal went immediately to Verſailles, to give an account to the king of every thing that related to the princeſs; when his Majeſty ſent for the miniſter of marine, M. de Machault, and, without aſſigning any reaſon, ordered him to write to the governor of the Iſles of Mauritius and Bourbon, to treat M. d'Auband with every poſſible mark of diſtinction; which order was punctually executed, according to the report of Baron Grant, who had been a long time in her ſociety; and remarks, as an extraordinary circumſtance, that he had ſeen that princeſs pregnant when ſhe was upwards of fifty, about the year 1745. The king alſo wrote to the Queen of Hungary, with whom he was then at war, to inform her of the fortune and ſituation of her aunt. The queen accompanied her letter of thanks to the king with one to the princeſs, in which ſhe invited her to come and reſide with her; but on condition that ſhe would quit her huſband and daughter, for whom the king engaged to make a ſuitable proviſion. The princeſs did not heſitate a moment to refuſe theſe conditions, and remained with her huſband till the year 1747, when he died.

"Being a widow, and without children, ſhe returned to Paris, and took up her abode at the Hotel de Peru. Her deſign was to retire to a convent; but the Queen of Hungary offered to fix her at Bruſſels, with a penſion of twenty thouſand florins; but (adds M. Duclos) I am altogether ignorant whether ſhe went to reſide there; but this I know, that within theſe ſix years ſhe was at Vitry, where ſhe lived in a very recluſe manner, with no more than three ſervants, one of whom was a negro. She was then called Madame de Moldack; but I know not who M. de Moldack was, and when ſhe married him. She is now a widow: I ſaw her as ſhe was taking walk, in the year 1768 *."

Anecdotes of the Family of the Grenvilles, in Mauritius.

M. de Grenville is of an ancient, noble, and illuſtrious family of Normandy, where there are ſeveral burghs and eſtates which bear his name; and a branch which paſſed into England, with William the Conqueror, in 1066, where it now poſſeſſes very extenſive poſſeſſions and high dignities.

This gentleman is an old officer, who has ſerved with honour both in France and India; and may, with great truth, be repreſented as ſuperior to the generality of mankind, from his underſtanding, his knowledge, and the qualities of his character. He is diſtinguiſhed here by the title of the philoſopher, and he deſerves it; for in the moſt elevating ſenſe of the expreſſion, he is a lover of wiſdom. In the early part of his life, the vivacity of his temper, heightened by the military ſpirit of that period, engaged him in frequent affairs of honour; and the laſt having taken place with a nobleman in the ſervice of the court,

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"* This laſt account was written in 1771."

in the garden of Verſailles, and under the very windows of the king's apartment, it threatened the moſt ſerious conſequences. But M. de Moupou, then high in office, to whom he was related, perſuaded him to quit the kingdom, and procured him a commiſſion in India, where he ſerved with diſtinction.

If it were conſiſtent with the objects of this work, it would be a delightful circumſtance to dwell on the virtues and extraordinary qualities of this family. I muſt, however, confine myſelf to one of them, M. Grenville de Forval, the ſecond ſon of M. de Grenville. Some events relative to him are ſo connected with the manners of theſe iſlands (Mauritius, Bourbon, &c.) and ſo remarkable in themſelves, that they will at the ſame time heighten the intereſt, as well as add to the information of this work.

In theſe iſlands there is not a ſingle example of a deformed or crooked ſhape, which muſt ariſe from the natural and unreſtrained mode of education which prevails there. To theſe advantages, Forval united a martial air, blended with a ſlight appearance of ſeverity, and an approved courage, to the moſt noble and generous ſentiments that are found in the human breaſt.

The want of ſlaves in our colonies, renders expeditions neceſſary in order to procure them. Veſſels, therefore, are equipped for the coaſts of Africa and Madagaſcar, and a certain body of troops are ſent with them, to favour or ſupport the objects of theſe voyages.

Forval was ordered to command a detachment on a ſervice of this nature, on the coaſt of Madagaſcar; and being arrived on the eaſtern ſide of it, he diſembarked his people, and encamped them on the ſmall iſland of St Mary, called by the natives, Ibrahim, which is ſeparated only from the principal iſland by a very narrow ſtrait. Here the communications took place between the perſons engaged in this expedition, and one of the petty princes of Madagaſcar, relative to the objects of the voyage.

Forval, however, was ſo entirely convinced of the good diſpoſition of the people with whom he treated, that he yielded to the friendly ſolicitations of the king, to remain among them, and accordingly ordered ſome tents, and a ſmall number of ſoldiers, to remove from the little iſland, to the oppoſite coaſt. The king, who was called Adrian Baba, loaded him with careſſes; and having ſhown him his herd of cattle, demanded, in the pride of his heart, if the king of France was ſo great as him.

Forval, therefore, conſidered himſelf as in a ſtate of perfect ſecurity; and having entered into his tent, in order to paſs the night, he received an unexpected viſit from a moſt beautiful woman, a native of the iſland, who, after a ſhort compliment of apology for her intruſion, expreſſed her concern that ſo fine a white man as himſelf ſhould be maſſacred.

Forval, who was aſtoniſhed at the viſit, could not help taking notice of the danger which ſeemed to have produced it. The ſooty lady, who appeared to intereſt herſelf ſo much in his welfare, was the daughter of a king, and known by the title of princeſs Betſy. On being queſtioned as to the cauſe of this viſit, ſhe aſked him, in her turn, if he would wiſh to ſacrifice her life to ſave his own. "By no means," exclaimed Forval: "Then," replied ſhe, "I will inform you of a plot againſt your life, if you will promiſe to take me with you, and make me your wife. I will ſacrifice for you the throne of my father, which is my inheritance; I will abandon my country, my friends, my cuſtoms, and that liberty which is ſo dear to me. My relations, who will conſider me as diſhonoured, will deteſt me; and if you leave me to their vengeance, I

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ſhall be reduced to ſlavery, which, to me, would be a thouſand times worſe than death. Promiſe to grant what I have demanded; ſwear that your ſoldiers ſhall do no injury to my relations, and I will reveal what it is of the utmoſt importance for you to know!" Forval immediately engaged to grant her requeſt, if the intelligence ſhe announced proved to be of the importance ſhe had attached to it.

'Well then,' ſaid ſhe, 'at break of day my father will come here, under the pretext of a friendly viſit, and if he breaks a ſtick, which he will hold in his hand, that will be the ſignal of thy death: his guard will then enter with their hatchets, and will kill thee, and all thy people will be maſſacred with thee.'

Forval immediately conducted her to a place of ſafety. Nevertheleſs, he was determined to wait till the morning, and aſcertain the truth of her information. The princeſs had alſo added, that the ſignal the king would give for his attendants to retire, would be to throw his hat toward them.

He accordingly ordered his ſoldiers to remain under arms during the night, and to keep within their tents. As for himſelf, he got his arms in readineſs, placed a couple of piſtols under the covering of his table, and doſed by the ſide of it, with his hand on the piſtols.

At length the king arrived, and ſoon after, having broke his ſtick, the guard was advancing to the front of his tent; but the king, terrified at the piſtol which Forval held at his throat, caſt his hat toward his attendants, who immediately departed. The ſmall party of ſoldiers, which Forval had with him, were now drawn up in order of battle. All the negroes had diſappeared; the king alone remained as a priſoner; nor was he enlarged, till the princeſs was embarked with all the equipage, and Forval felt himſelf happy in departing from this perfidious coaſt. Nor was he ungrateful; he ſolemnly eſpouſed the princeſs Betſy, in ſpite of all the remonſtrances of his friends, and he lives happily with her. Her colour was certainly diſpleaſing to the white people, and her education did not qualify her to be a companion to ſuch a man as her huſband; but her figure was fine, her air noble, and all her actions partook of the dignity of one who was born to command.

She was a real amazon, and the dreſs ſhe choſe was that which has ſince received a ſimilar name. She never walked out but ſhe was followed by a ſlave, and armed with a ſmall fowling-piece, which ſhe knew how to employ with great dexterity, and would defend herſelf with equal courage if ſhe were attacked. She was nimble as a deer, though ſtately in her demeanour; but with her huſband as gentle and ſubmiſſive as the moſt affectionate of his ſlaves. She behaved to her inferiors with equal dignity and kindneſs; and ſhe never went to the moſt diſtant part of the iſland, to pay viſits to her family, but on foot; ſhe nevertheleſs adopted the elegancies of behaviour with great facility, and her ſociety is very pleaſant, and full of vivacity.

Some years after this marriage, the princeſs Betſy, for ſhe was ſeldom called Madam de Forval, gave her huſband a new proof of her affection. Her father at length died, the kingdom deſcended to her, and her people, who were ardently attached to the blood of their kings, anxiouſly wiſhed to ſee her on the throne of her anceſtors. As ſoon as ſhe was informed of this event, ſhe requeſted permiſſion of her huſband to viſit her country. Though ſuch an unexpected requeſt aſtoniſhed Forval, he did not heſitate to comply with it; and as ſhe did not unfold the reaſon of ſuch a deſire on her part, he felt his pride mortified at her conduct, though he kept

kept his chagrin to his own boſom, of which it was a painful inmate. The firſt ſentiments of Forval, reſpecting his princeſs, had been inſtigated by honour and gratitude: but her demeanour toward him, her conduct toward others, and her perſonal charms, in which her colour was forgotten, had awakened in his heart the moſt faithful and the moſt tender affection.

The queen Betſy, however, departed for her kingdom as ſoon as ſhe had received the permiſſion of her own ſovereign; while Forval was totally unable to reconcile the ſtep ſhe had taken to her former ſentiments and paſt conduct. He accordingly waited with the utmoſt impatience for the return of the veſſel which had taken her away, when, to his great aſtoniſhment, his faithful wife returned in it, with a hundred and fifty ſlaves, which ſhe had brought him. 'You had the generoſity,' ſhe cried, on throwing herſelf into his arms, 'to marry me, in oppoſition to the wiſhes of your friends, and the prejudices of your country, when I had nothing to offer you but my perſon, whoſe charms, whatever they might have been conſidered in my own country, were calculated rather to diſguſt, than to pleaſe you. You will therefore add another proof of your kindneſs, by aſſuring me of your pardon, for having raiſed a ſingle doubt in your mind reſpecting the affection and duty you ſo entirely deſerve from me; but it was my wiſh to avoid informing you of the project I had conceived on my father's death, till it was executed. It was not the little kingdom which that event transferred to me, nor even the largeſt empire, that would ſeparate me from you; my ſole deſign, in the ſtep I have juſt taken, was to make you an offer of a ſmall number of my ſubjects, which is the only part of my inheritance that I can beſtow. I have, at the ſame time, complied with the wiſhes of my people, in reſigning my little ſovereignty to the moſt worthy of my relations.'

Such a ſcene may be more eaſily conceived than deſcribed. Thus Forval found his wife worthy of all his affection; and the preſent ſhe made him, is a ſort of fortune in this country.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EDINBURGH MAGAZINE.

SIR,

I AM a native of Switzerland, travelling for inſtruction and amuſement, through Great Britain. I have already viſited on foot, (a mode of travelling which I prefer to all others) the principal towns and the moſt intereſting places in England. Scotland is the next ſcene of my peregrinations; and I propoſe to reſide in its capital, and the vicinity, for a few months, to obſerve the manners of the place, and to enjoy in all its beauty the delightful ſcenery which forms the environs of this city. From this centre, however, I mean to make conſiderable excurſions during the fine weather, in every quarter; as the gentleman with whom I lodge aſſures me, I ſhall be highly gratified by viſiting a number of places, which he has been ſo kind as point out to me in a map of Scotland of extraordinary ſize, which hangs in my apartment. As I write letters twice a month to my friends at home, containing accounts of whatever I obſerve remarkable, either in nature or in art, and ſuch obſervations as they occaſion, my Edinburgh friend has ſuggeſted to me to ſend copies, or extracts of my letters, from this place to your journal, which he affirms is the moſt reſpectable, and the beſt conducted in town. As I have always been extremely fond of periodical works, and was wont, while at home,

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to contribute literary papers to ſeveral journals, I conſented to his propoſal; and if you think, Sir, that they will prove amuſing to your readers, I ſhall willingly communicate, for your work, copies of ſuch letters as I may tranſmit from time to time to my Helvetian friends.—I have incloſed a copy of the letter I wrote a few days after I arrived in Edinburgh, omitting thoſe paſſages of a private nature which can be intereſting only to the perſon to whom it was directed.

I have the honour to be,
Sir, your humble ſervant,
Helveticus.

EXTRACTS FROM A JOURNAL OF A SWISS TRAVELLER IN SCOTLAND.

Letter I.

To M. B—ch at D—, near Zurich.

"My Dearest Friend,

Laſt time I had the ſatisfaction of writing you I was upon the borders of Scotland, and had been contemplating, with various emotions, that diſtrict which, according to the Britiſh Hiſtorians, was anciently the ſcene of ſuch havoc and devaſtation. As I was much fatigued with ſome previous journeys, I reſolved, when two or three ſtages from Edinburgh, to enter the capital in a carriage. Beſides being more eaſy for myſelf, this was no greater a compliment than what was due to a town, which, if we calculate from its firſt foundation, is one of the oldeſt in Europe. I therefore arrived in this city in a poſt-chaiſe, which ſtopt in the duſk of the evening at the *Black-Bull* Inn. As it was too late to deliver my letters of introduction, I reſolved to keep to my apartment all night, and having ſent for the Hiſtory of Edinburgh by Arnot, which I had heard accidentally recommended, I peruſed it until it was time to retire to reſt. This is a method which I have adopted in a number of places, and local hiſtories are now ſo common in Great Britain, that I have ſeldom been at a loſs for information concerning every object worthy of attention. I find this is a much better way of obtaining a knowledge of curioſities than by queſtioning ignorant ruſtics, or even opulent citizens, who are often unable to give true and ſatisfactory anſwers. This is my common method, although I ſometimes aſk a few queſtions, by way of experiment. Next morning, being impatient to have a view of the interior of the town, I roſe and breakfaſted at an early hour, and being directed how to proceed, (for my inn ſtands upon the very hem of the city,) I went along betwixt two public buildings, the one very elegant and the other very mean, which I underſtood were the Regiſter Office and Theatre, and entered upon a majeſtic bridge thrown over a valley which was once covered with water. I proceeded in the ſame direction, ſome way farther along a beautiful ſtreet, but was obliged to deſiſt from farther view, at that time, by the intolerable effluvia which aſſailed me on every quarter, and which I was informed did not ceaſe until late in the morning. This nuiſance certainly ought, and might eaſily be removed at an earlier hour, as it muſt give much diſagreeable annoyance to thoſe induſtrious citizens whoſe buſineſs requires early attendance. Perhaps, thoſe who conduct the police of the city do not allow themſelves an opportunity of being made *ſenſible* of the grievance. I hurried back, and was haſtening to my lodgings, when, taking by miſtake a wrong direction alongſt a very extenſive and very elegant ſtreet, I was ſoon ſtruck with the reſemblance of its ſituation, and that of the adjoining bridge, to the *Pont Neuf* at Paris, which we have often beheld with ſuch pleaſure. I was now in the new town, and having traverſed a number of ſtreets, all of them truly delightful, I returned to my inn highly pleaſed with what I had latterly *ſeen*, notwithſtanding

ing of what I *felt* in my firſt outſet.

Thus morning inſects, that in muck begun,
Shine, buzz, and fly-blow in the mid-day ſun. POPE.

I will not diſtract you with a deſcriptive detail of turnings and windings, of croſs ſtreets and ſtraight ſtreets, of ſquares and public buildings; being convinced, from experience, that of all inſipid accounts, theſe are the moſt tireſome, and what is worſe, convey no real and diſtinct ideas of the objects to thoſe who have not beheld them. Before I ſaw it, I heard that the New Town of Edinburgh was very fine. I had formed a high idea of it in my conception, and it remains only to declare to you that I was not diſappointed.

I next aſcended a conſiderable eminence oppoſite to my lodgings, called the *Calton-hill*, and here my emotions were of a different nature from thoſe of the morning. Ah, my dear friend! what a magnificent proſpect ſpread itſelf out before my eyes! every thing that is grand and beautiful, and pictureſque, all that can charm the ſenſes and arouſe the fancy, are here collected together, into one view, and burſt upon the ſight like the viſions of Paradiſe! In the fore ground of this noble landſcape, beſides part of Edinburgh and the whole town of Leith, aroſe a number of handſome villas, each ſurrounded with woods and gardens, and fruitful paſtures, laid out in the beſt taſte, and diſplaying the moſt exquiſite variety, which a rich fancy can conceive. In the middle ground lay the Frith of Forth, an arm of the ſea, which ſtretches farther up the country than the eye can reach. It is interſperſed with two or three ſmall iſlands, betwixt which lay a number of veſſels of different ſizes at anchor. The expanſe was calm and tranſparent, and brought forcibly to my recollection that heavenly day which we had the felicity of enloying alongſt with the Madamoiſelles D. A.—about two years ago, on the lake of Geneva. Ah! my friend, at this moment I ſhed tears of ineffable delight, when I recollect the rapture in which we reclined upon the ſides of the boat, and let it move at pleaſure, after we had been melted, by having the golden verſes of Lavater and Geſner's ſongs, ſung and played by the ladies, and accompanied by you on the flagellet!—Since that day to this, which I am now deſcribing, I have not experienced ſuch delightful moments. But the pleaſure which the placidneſs of the Forth aſſociated was accompanied by a melancholy ſigh. Ah! my friend, here were no ladies endeared to my heart—no charming verſes—no melodious ſtrains—and you, who would have enhanced the pleaſure by ſharing it, was at a diſtance.

In another quarter, was beheld the ſea ſoftening by degrees to the view until it blended with the ſky; and the fiſhing veſſels, which moved upon its ſurface, diminiſhed as they receded from the eye, until nothing appeared but a white ſail, which occaſionally gleamed from the horizon, as it happened to be ſhifted to the ſun. To the eaſt and weſt, the coaſt extended beyond view, and was margined with elegant ſummer retreats and villages of fiſhermen, whoſe tile-covered cottages ſhone from a diſtance.

The back ground of the landſcape preſented the oppoſite coaſt covered with towns and villages, the ſmoke of which ſlowly aſcended and mingled with the vapours, which half vailed ſome groups of mountains that towered in the diſtance.

On my right hand, at the bottom of the hill, ſtood the palace of the kings of Scotland, occupied by ſome of the nobles and chief officers of the kingdom; and lately by the Princes of the Bourbon family; and immediately ſubjoining to the palace are the ruins of a gothic chapel, which,

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in its preſent ſtate of decay, are ſignificant of the decline of that religion to which it was anciently a temple. Its effect, when ſeen from the *Calton*, is highly picturesque, and is enhanced by the remains of another chapel, once ſacred to St Anthony, which ſtands upon an eminence over-againſt its decayed friend. They have both yielded to the ravages of time, or the hammer of *Knox*, but that of the apoſtle of Padua has ſuffered moſt. I have been informed, that lately a part of the other chapel was fitted up, as a place of worſhip, while the remains of the Bourbon family reſided in the place; and one cannot but be ſtruck with the circumſtances of coincidence betwixt the worſhippers, and the place of worſhip.—Even St Anthony is not yet without his due honours; a well, called after his name, and which iſſues from a rock in the neighbourhood of his chapel, is frequented by half ſick virgins, in morning pilgrimage; who fancy, not without truth, that its waters are ſalutary: young lovers, attracted by the picturesqueneſs and congenial *ſentimentality* of the ſacred ſpot, viſit it in fine mornings and evenings; and the man of taſte and reflection, when he repairs thither, finds a ſubject for his pencil, and a theme for poetic fancy—

On the other hand, in a burying-ground ſituated upon the ſide of the Calton-hill, ſtands the monument of Hume the hiſtorian. It is a plain circular building of ſtone, with a flat top, which is ſurrounded by a frieze. I viewed it, as you would have done, with mingled admiration and regret; admiration of his unrivalled talents, and regret at his unlimited ſcepticiſm.

The other ſemicircle of the Calton proſpect is compoſed of a great number of very grand parts, when viewed ſingly, although the *tout enſemble* is not equal to the northern diviſion. It comprehends the whole city of Edinburgh ſtretched in the plain below: on the left, two hills of great ſize, and equalling, in the picturesque character, ſome of our own Switzerland mountains, a chain of finely grouped hills a conſiderable way off to the right, and an immenſe extent of champaign diſtance, undulating in beautiful variety, finely interſperſed with wood, and bounded at the horizon by a range of mountains of a good outline.—

Cloſe by me ſtood the *Oſervatory* belonging to the city, ſo that I was ſurrounded by a numerous aſſemblage of objects, each different in the nature of the intereſt it occaſioned, yet all forming the moſt ſublime whole! one part charmed by its beauty, another by the diſplay of natural grandeur, cultivated and enriched by art. Some aſſociated in the mind ideas of ancient magnificence and the glorious events of paſt ages, while others exhibited the end of human greatneſs, whether of outward pageantry or mental accompliſhments. Here a perſon, after he has feaſted to ſatiety upon all that is intereſting in ſublunary objects, may retire to the Obſervatory; and while "his eye in a fine phrenzy rolling darts from earth to heaven, the imagination bodying forth the forms of things unknown, may give to them a local habitation and a name."

After having gratified myſelf with a particular view of the prominent features of this noble proſpect, I took a few turns upon the walk which winds round the ſummit of the Calton Hill; and expected that in ſuch fine weather it would have been crouded with parties of people admiring and enjoying like myſelf, but I perceived only two or three nurſes with their children, and a few boys diverting themſelves: I could not avoid thinking, either that the citizens of Edinburgh have no taſte, or that they are indifferent to what they have every day at command. *This is truly, as* Solomon ſays, *a ſore evil*

evil under the ſun, that no object, however valuable, long preſerves its original intereſt.

O fortunatos nimium, ſua ſi bona norint.—

Perhaps the difficulty of acceſs may be one reaſon why the Calton is ſo little frequented. The aſcent might be rendered more eaſy by ſome flight of ſteps, a plan adopted in a part of the town adjoining to my lodgings, called the Terrace. I underſtand that the beaus and belles of this place, ſince ſome elegant ſtreets have been built in the middle of the town, prefer walking alongſt them. They ſurely make a bad choice, when a few minutes walk would convey them to pure air, and one of the fineſt proſpects in Europe. But "faſhion is every thing," as I heard one of the girls of the kitchen obſerving this morning, and faſhion in every thing is generally counter to good taſte.

Satisfied to the extreme, and even fatigued with enjoyment, I deſcended to my lodgings, and being directed to the houſe of ———, delivered to him my letters of introduction. He enquired moſt cordially for you and Madame B—, for N—, M. D'A—, and all his friends: he is a moſt agreeable man, and quite overpowered me with his civilities. I was compelled, from the moment I entered his houſe, to become a member of his family during my reſidence here * * * * *.

My friend (for we became friends as ſoon as we met,) has been talking of carrying me to the country for a few days, but I muſt examine every thing worth attention in town, at leaſt ſome of them, before I accompany him to the country. As he is acquainted with all the literati of this place, he has promiſed to introduce me to the moſt celebrated amongſt them, ſo that you may expect, from time to time, ſuch literary intelligence as I had the pleaſure of tranſmitting to you from the London circles.

Our friend and I have taken ſeveral walks in the moſt faſhionable places, ſo that in my next I ſhall give you ſome account of what I ſaw and remarked. To-morrow is Sunday, and I ſhall have an opportunity of hearing ſome of the Scotch clergy. The univerſity is ſitting at preſent too, and I ſhall viſit it ſoon.

You may expect, as uſual, an account of whatever is intereſting about this place; and I am extremely happy to hear that my details continue to give pleaſure to our circle at Zurich * * * * * *. I am always,

My Dear Friend,
With the warmeſt affection,
Yours, ——— ———

(To be continued.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE LIFE OF WILLIAM RUSSEL, L. L. D.

From Lives of Scottiſh Authors; by David Irving, A. M. *

[*Concluded from our laſt*, p. 287.]

RUSSEL's failure in the attempt to advance his reputation by means of his poetical effuſions, did not proceed from the lateneſs of the period when he lived, but from intrinſic circumſtances. They are the productions of a man who, from admiring a captivating art, proceeded to unſucceſsful imitation. To the ſtudy of poetry he could not be attracted by motives of intereſt; for, in the preſent age, the dulleſt compiler often receives a higher compenſation than the moſt ingenious poet.

During

* Juſt publiſhed by A. Constable, *Edinburgh*.

During the following year, his ſtudies met with a temporary interruption: he embarked for Jamaica, in order to recover ſome money due to him as the heir of his brother James, who, after a reſidence of ſeveral years, had died in that iſland.

In 1783 he publiſhed the *Tragic Muſe*, a poem addreſſed to Mrs Siddons. By this ſtep he probably intended to ſecure the theatrical intereſt of that admirable actreſs.

To addreſs verſes to a player has been thought derogatory from the dignity of the literary character. That poets may diſcover a more dignified ſubject for panegyric than the merits of the moſt eminent actor, will not be controverted. It does not, however, follow as a neceſſary conſequence, that theatrical merit ſhould never be celebrated. Supreme excellence in any profeſſion ought to be reſcued from oblivion: and the various ingredients which enter into the compoſition of an accompliſhed actor, are of no vulgar kind. When a poet addreſſes an actor in the language of abject adulation, he expoſes himſelf to the ſevereſt cenſure; but in exhibiting a juſt delineation of his trionic excellence, he renders himſelf obnoxious to no merited reprehenſion.

The three volumes which complete the *History of Modern Europe*, made their appearance in 1784. From his own memorandums, it appears, that in the compoſition of each volume of this work, he conſumed about twelve months; a ſpace of time which affords no room for ſurpriſe at his rapidity or tardineſs of performance.

The eleven volumes of Smollett's *Hiſtory of England* were finiſhed in fourteen months †: the twelve volumes of Gibbon's *Hiſtory of the Roman Empire* were the conſtant labour of twenty of the beſt years of the Author's life ‡.

Ruſſell ſeems about this time to have been in eaſy circumſtances. During the three following years we do not find him engaged in any new literary ſcheme. He occaſionally occupied himſelf in correcting and enlarging the *Hiſtory of Modern Europe*.

Concerning his ſocial habits while he continued to reſide in London, no ſatisfactory intelligence has been obtained. Like every one who devotes the moſt precious of his hours to ſtudy, he muſt have been eager in cultivating an intimacy with men diſtinguiſhed by their ingenuity and learning. Among his literary acquaintances he numbered Dr Stuart, a man whoſe genius it would be ſuperfluous to praiſe, and whoſe frailties it would be painful to expoſe: though his moral character may probably have been as odious as a late writer repreſented it §, yet his intellectual endowments were ſuch as cannot fail to extort admiration. To find ſo much energy of mind united to ſo much depravity, muſt inſpire us with melancholy reflections on the imbecility of human nature.

In 1787, he formed a matrimonial connection with Miſs Scott; in whom he found a lady of feminine accompliſhments, and of a maſculine underſtanding. She became the partner of his ſtudies, and the ſoother of his cares. He now fixed his reſidence at Knottyholm, a farm belonging to the Duke of Buccleugh, and ſituated at a ſmall diſtance from Langholm. If he poſſeſſed the ſmalleſt reliſh for a rural life, his ſituation muſt have been highly agreeable. His literary labours had not been unſucceſsful. He was united to an excellent woman, for whom he had long entertained the moſt cordial affection and eſteem. They tenanted a commmodi-

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† Anderſon's Life of Smollett.
‡ Gibbon's Memoirs of his Life and Writings.
§ Chalmers's Life of Ruddiman, p. 290.

ous and elegant cottage on the banks of the Eſk, a river not "unknown in ſong." The adjacent country affords an infinite variety of romantic ſcenes, ſuch as a poet might delight to feign. It was here that Armſtrong and Mickle began to liſten to the whiſpers of fancy, and to ſtore their minds with the images and ſentiments of genuine poetry. He reſided in a diſtrict not unpoliſhed nor illiterate. The elegant ſociety which he enjoyed at Forge, the reſidence of the late James Scott, Eſq. muſt have preſented many charms to a man of letters. He alſo lived in habits of intimacy with ſeveral of the neighbouring clergy, and with Mr Maxwell of Broomholm, the author of a late *Eſſay on Tune*.

In 1792, he obtained from the Univerſity of St Andrews the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws; Diplomas have often been conferred with leſs diſcrimination.

Encouraged by the favourable reception of his laſt publication, he had begun to digeſt the *Hiſtory of Ancient Europe*, two volumes of which appeared in the courſe of the following year. In the compoſition of this work, he profeſſes to have been peculiarly ſtudious to found his facts on original authorities, and to clear the narration of unimportant events. In order to render the book more valuable, he has alſo included the revolutions in Aſia and Africa; and has thus conſtituted it, in ſome meaſure, a complete hiſtory of the early ages of the world.

This work was leſs favourably received: but the period was now approaching when, to him applauſe and cenſure were to be alike indifferent. A ſtroke of the palſy ſuddenly terminated his exiſtence. He died in the year 1793, the 47th year of his age, and was interred in Weſter-kirk church yard.

His widow continues to reſide at Knottyholm. She has always been highly reſpected by the circle of her acquaintance. His daughter is a promiſing girl, of about 12 years of age.

The *Hiſtory of Ancient Europe* was left in an unfiniſhed ſtate. The conduct of thoſe whom, in the ſimplicity of his heart, he regarded as men of integrity and honour, had almoſt entirely interrupted the courſe of his ſtudies. Certain bookſellers had not ſcrupled to print a new edition of one of his works, altho' the copy-right had already reverted to the author. They truſted, no doubt, that in his diſtant retreat he would ſtill continue ignorant of their proceedings, and that their ſuperior opulence would ſecure them from the danger of legal reparation.

The ſound of their many friendly profeſſions had lulled caution aſleep: and he, at length, became the dupe of his own generous and unſuſpecting diſpoſition. As he himſelf was incapable of fraud or deceit, he was not apt to guard againſt thoſe abhorred qualities in others. Although he had inveſtigated the general principles of human nature, yet his total ſecluſion from active life ſuffered him to remain almoſt entirely unacquainted with the habits and propenſities of mankind, as theſe diſplay themſelves in the leſs brilliant departments of civil ſociety. He was therefore utterly unprepared to maintain his rights againſt the concealed or open attempts of thoſe deteſtable harpies who have always continued to infeſt the defenceleſs votaries of literature.

Dr Ruſſell was a man of indefatigable induſtry. Before he had perfected one ſcheme, another always preſented itſelf to his mind. Beſides two complete tragedies, entitled *Pyrrhus* and *Zenobia*, he left behind him an *Analyſis of Bryant's Mythology*, and the following unfiniſhed productions.

1. The Earl of Stafford, a tragedy.
2. Modern Life, a comedy.
3. The Love Marriage, an opera.
4. Human

4. Human Happineſs, a poem intended to have been compriſed in four books.
5. An Hiſtorical and Philoſophical View of the Progreſs of Mankind in the Knowledge of the Terraqueous Globe.
6. The Hiſtory of Modern Europe, part III. from the peace of Paris, in 1763, to the general pacification in 1783, including an Account of the American War, and of the European Tranſactions in the Eaſt Indies. In a ſeries of Letters from a nobleman to his ſon.
7. The Hiſtory of England, from the beginning of the reign of George III. to the concluſion of the American War.

In the compoſition of the laſt of theſe works he was engaged at the time of his death. It was to be compriſed in three volumes octavo; for the copy-right of which Mr Cadell had ſtipulated to pay 750 pounds.

He probably intended to combine his general hiſtories in ſuch a manner as to form a complete view of the moſt remarkable tranſactions of mankind in the four grand diviſions of the globe. The proper execution of ſuch a project would require a longer term of years than the life of a man now affords. Sir Walter Raleigh likewiſe formed the plan of a complete *Hiſtory of the World*; and the part which he has finiſhed manifeſts his vaſt comprehenſion of mind. But this is a ſcheme which could only have been brought to perfection by one of the anceſtors of Noah.

To enter into a minute examination of the merit of his various productions, would be a taſk productive of little advantage or entertainment. On the *Hiſtory of America* general commendation has already been beſtowed. The *Hiſtory of Modern Europe* is a judicious and intereſting epitome; and to it he is chiefly indebted for the rank which he now maintains in the republic of letters.

"If the preſent age, (ſays Dr Stuart,) cannot boaſt of many diſcoveries, it has at leaſt a right to value itſelf on its improvements. All the ſciences have been unfolded with a degree of perſpicuity and elegance unknown to any other æra; and every ſpecies of compoſition has received the laſt finiſhing of taſte. This remark is particularly applicable to hiſtorical productions. Modern hiſtory, now ſo animated and intereſting, was little better than a barren chronicle, or an indigeſted map of materials rudely thrown together.

"To theſe obſervations we were naturally led, by the peruſal of the work before us; in which the author has combined great hiſtorical accuracy, with a beautiful arrangement, and a happy ſelection of incidents. He endeavours to unite the vivacity of Voltaire with the philoſophical ſpirit of Monteſquieu, and the political ſagacity of Bolingbroke. While he impregnates his narrative with ſtriking ſentiments, and lively anecdotes, he enlightens the mind of the reader by ingenious remarks on the principles of government, or the ſcience of human nature *."

If his Hiſtory of Ancient Europe has obtained much leſs popularity, it ought to be remembered that this work labours under all the diſadvantages of an interrupted plan. The two volumes which he completed, contains a detail of Grecian affairs, from the earlieſt dawn of hiſtorical record to the commencement of the Peloponneſian war. The Hiſtory of Greece has been exhibited in ſuch a variety of lights, by Stanyan, Goldſmith, Gaſt, Mitford, Robertſon, and Gillies, that it will be extremely difficult for another who attempts the ſame ſubject, however intereſting it may be deemed, to attract

* European Magazine, vol. ii. p. 278.

ous and elegant cottage on the banks of the Eſk, a river not "unknown in ſong." The adjacent country affords an infinite variety of romantic ſcenes, ſuch as a poet might delight to feign. It was here that Armſtrong and Mickle began to liſten to the whiſpers of fancy, and to ſtore their minds with the images and ſentiments of genuine poetry. He reſided in a diſtrict not unpoliſhed nor illiterate. The elegant ſociety which he enjoyed at Forge, the reſidence of the late James Scott, Eſq. muſt have preſented many charms to a man of letters. He alſo lived in habits of intimacy with ſeveral of the neighbouring clergy, and with Mr Maxwell of Broomholm, the author of a late *Eſſay on Tune*.

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* European Magazine, vol. ii. p. 278.

ous and elegant cottage on the banks of the Eſk, a river not "unknown in ſong." The adjacent country affords an infinite variety of romantic ſcenes, ſuch as a poet might delight to feign. It was here that Armſtrong and Mickle began to liſten to the whiſpers of fancy, and to ſtore their minds with the images and ſentiments of genuine poetry. He reſided in a diſtrict not unpoliſhed nor illiterate. The elegant ſociety which he enjoyed at Forge, the reſidence of the late James Scott, Eſq. muſt have preſented many charms to a man of letters. He alſo lived in habits of intimacy with ſeveral of the neighbouring clergy, and with Mr Maxwell of Broomholm, the author of a late *Eſſay on Tune*.

In 1792, he obtained from the Univerſity of St Andrews the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws; Diplomas have often been conferred with leſs diſcrimination.

Encouraged by the favourable reception of his laſt publication, he had begun to digeſt the *History of Ancient Europe*, two volumes of which appeared in the courſe of the following year. In the compoſition of this work, he profeſſes to have been peculiarly ſtudious to found his facts on original authorities, and to clear the narration of unimportant events. In order to render the book more valuable, he has alſo included the revolutions in Aſia and Africa; and has thus conſtituted it, in ſome meaſure, a complete hiſtory of the early ages of the world.

This work was leſs favourably received: but the period was now approaching when, to him applauſe and cenſure were to be alike indifferent. A ſtroke of the palſy ſuddenly terminated his exiſtence. He died in the year 1793, the 47th year of his age, and was interred in Weſter-kirk church yard.

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* European Magazine, vol. ii. p. 278.

tract any unuſual ſhare of public attention.

Ruſſel was a ſelf-taught ſcholar, who, by unwearied application, had acquired a conſiderable fund of general knowledge. The extent of his acquaintance with ancient literature will be found to exceed expectation; and he appears to have been tolerably ſkilled in ſeveral modern languages. What he himſelf knew, he poſſeſt the faculty of communicating in an agreeable manner.

Though he cannot be pronounced a profound and original writer, yet his merit as a general hiſtorian ſufficiently entitles him to that ſhare of attention which he has here received.

This unadorned narrative may excite no unpleaſing ſenſations in the breaſt of ſome ingenious youth, whom fortune has miſplaced in the humbleſt vale of life. By drawing his reflections to the probable reſult of ſtrenuous and well-directed exertion, it may perhaps tend to inſpire him with the laudable ambition of excellence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EDINBURGH MAGAZINE.

REMARKS ON THE PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RACE IN SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY.

Ἀμφὶ δ' ἀνδρῶν
πων φρεσὶν ἀμπλακίαι
ἀναριθμητοι κρημανται,
τουτο δ' ἀμηχανον τυχειν
Ὁτι νυν, καιτν τηλου
τα φερτατον ἀνδρι τυχειν PINDAR.

But wrapt in error is the human mind,
And human bliſs is ever inſecure:
Know we what fortune yet remains behind?
Know we how long the preſent ſhall endure? WEST.

SIR,

A Paper in your laſt Magazine, entitled *Candle Light Sketches*, has given occaſion to the following remarks, which are not to be conſidered as an anſwer to that paper, but only as a declaration of my opinion concerning the ſubjects which were there diſcuſſed. The doctrine of the infinite perfectibility of the human mind, and its unlimited progreſs in the arts and ſciences, would appear to be only a conjecture, unſanctioned by authority, and founded on a falſe eſtimate of human ability, and a falſe view of the human mind. If we only take a view of the human race in their advancement from barbariſm to civilization, and trace the progreſs of the arts and ſciences from their firſt appearance among men, to that high pitch of perfection to which they are now arrived, we will quickly diſcover upon what an unſtable foundation this doctrine is reſted; and inſtead of concluding, that ſcience, like the falling ſtone, will advance with an accelerated velocity; we will form our expectations of the future from our experience of the paſt, and will rather compare its progreſs to the moving planet, which ſometimes advances with an increaſing velocity, at another ſtands ſtill, and ſometimes moves in a retrograde direction, according to its varying diſtance from the central body, and its varying ſituation among the ſurrounding planets.

After civilization and refinement began to appear among the Grecian ſtates, men quickly roſe who addicted themſelves wholly to the cultiva-

tion

tion of literature, and applied themſelves with ardour to the ſtudy of philoſophy. The difficulties that were to be ſurmounted in the purſuit of theſe laudable ends, did not damp their zeal, nor deter them from their purpoſe; and the unwearied diligence with which they conducted their reſearches into nature, diſplays an eagerneſs for knowledge and a ſteadineſs of mind which has ſeldom been exhibited in any country, or in any age of the world. Their improvement in ſcience, however, did not keep pace with their ſolicitude for information, nor was it proportioned to the number of thoſe who flocked to the ſchools of ancient philoſophy. Inſtead of advancing with an uniform motion, its progreſs ſeems to have been retarded by ſeveral concurring cauſes *, and a golden and a ſilver age alternately ſucceeded. This ſpirit of enquiry ſo prevalent among the Greeks, was ſoon introduced among the Romans, who, in their turn, diffuſed it over all thoſe parts of the globe that were ſubject to their victorious arms. But did this ſpirit of enquiry, did the great progreſs of the Romans in every branch of ſcience and literature, preſerve theſe from decline, or prove an antidote to their deſtruction? No, that awful ſtorm which had for a long time been gathering over the moſt accompliſhed of European nations, ſoon burſt with fury, and involved the world in the utmoſt extremity of brutal ignorance and moral depravity. Then was it that every trace of knowledge, and every veſtige of genius, ſeemed to be erazed from the human mind. Then was it that virtue ſeemed to have taken farewell of Europe, and vice, with all her attending train, to have ſucceeded in her place, and uſurped her throne. Some ſeeds of knowledge, however, would ſeem to have clung to ſuperſtition, and after being nurtured in the hot-beds of monaſtic folly for the ſpace of five hundred years, at laſt ſprung up and diſſeminated over Europe thoſe arts and ſciences which ſince that period have continued to advance with ſuch aſtoniſhing rapidity.

This ſhort view of the progreſs of philoſophy affords a ſtrong argument againſt the doctrine under review. For if it is philoſophical to form our ideas of the future, from what we know of the paſt, it is natural to expect that the ſame viciſſitudes which have already taken place in ſcience and philoſophy, ſhall ſtill continue to influence their progreſs, and diſturb the regularity of their advancement. May not Europe be for a ſecond time involved in darkneſs and ignorance, and learning again baniſhed from the earth? May not that land in which we now live, again become the haunt of barbarity and the habitation of ignorance? May not the diſmal notes of the ſavage, and the furious howlings of wild beaſts, reſound in thoſe ſtreets where knowledge and refinement now prevail? May not the impious rites of the barbarians, and the inhuman ſacrifices of a pagan poſterity, be offered upon thoſe altars from which the pure incenſe of devotion now aſcends with acceptance unto heaven? And may not ſome unhappy captive linger out in torments his miſerable life in thoſe very halls where a *Newton* and a *Maclaurin* inſtructed, in true ſcience, a riſing generation? What is in the womb of futurity we know not, and that veil which hides it from mortal eyes cannot be drawn aſide by human ingenuity. We are not, however, deſtitute of guides which may conduct us to the future condition of European nations. The ruins of Greece and Rome riſe to our view, and preſent to our imagination that gloomy period when the weary traveller ſhall ſit in contemplation

* See the *Edinburgh Magazine* for *October* 1800, where a few of the general cauſes which conſpire to retard the progreſs of Phyſical Science are illuſtrated.

tion on the fragments of ſome venerable edifice, and weep over the ruins of the Britiſh Empire.

In this manner, then, may we judge of the future from our experience of the paſt, and conclude that the ſame alternate ſeaſons of ignorance and illumination, through which ſcience has already paſſed, ſhall ſtill continue to marr its progreſs, and diſturb that gradual and uniform advancement which has exiſted only in ſpeculating minds. It may indeed be ſaid, that the method of philoſophiſing made uſe of among the ancients, was ſo different from, and inferior to, that which now obtains, that their very procedure in the ſtudy of philoſophy tended in itſelf to haſten its decline; while the method that is now made uſe of has no ſuch tendency, but, on the contrary, is excellently calculated for accelerating that delightful period, "*when* NEWTON *and* LOCKE *ſhall be reckoned only Tyros in Science, and all men become* PHILOSOPHERS." It is too true indeed, that the ancient method of philoſophiſing was far from being fitted for the diſcovery of truth. By liſting under the banners of ſome celebrated teacher, whoſe opinions they were bound to receive, and whoſe abſurdities even they durſt not expoſe; the philoſophers of Greece and of Rome gave a deadly blow to the progreſs of Genius; and by attempting to make all the phenomena of nature tally with certain preconceived principles and cauſes which were ſolely the reſult of their own ungovernable imaginations, they inflicted an additional and a more incurable wound. The philoſophy of Ariſtotle alſo was abſurd in the extreme. By captious ſophiſms, by nice and fanciful diſtinctions, and by a number of obſcure and undefined terms, its deluded abettors were entangled in the mazes of error, and involved in an endleſs labyrinth of words. The young diſciple who panted eagerly after rational knowledge, was ſpeedily overwhelmed by its puzzling diſputes, and when he fondly thought that he had found ſomething ſolid and ſubſtantial, he was ſadly diſappointed when reflection convinced him that it was only a ſhadow *. But though the principles upon which the ancients conducted their reſearches into nature be thus

* Theſe obſervations are confirmed by the following cenſure of Ariſtotle by Lord Bacon, which is worthy of the reader's attention, both on account of the manner in which it is written, and the excellent view which it gives of the Ariſtotelian philoſophy.

"Let Ariſtotle firſt appear; whom we charge with abominable ſophiſtry; uſeleſs ſubtilty; and a vile ſporting with words. Nay, when men, by any accident, as by a favourable gale, arrived at any truth, and there caſt anchor; this man had the aſſurance to fetter the mind with the heavieſt irons, and compoſing a certain *art of madneſs*, enſlaved mankind with words.

"Again from the nurſing and tutoring of this man, have ariſen a ſhoal of *cunning triflers*, who turning their backs upon nature, and all the light of things and hiſtory, overſpread the world with numerous *mock ſchools*, raiſed by the reſtleſs agitation of wit, principally upon that extreme ductile matter of his *precepts* and *poſitions*. But they indeed are more excuſable than their *haughty dictator*; becauſe they did not, like him, offend againſt better light and knowledge; for he, after having trod in the open plains of hiſtory, and viewed the works of nature, yet dug to himſelf a dungeon, and filled it with the *vaineſt idols*. And, what adds to his guilt, he has, even upon the *hiſtory of particulars*, raiſed certain *cobweb ſtructures* which he would palm upon mankind for *cauſes*; whilſt, in reality, they are matters of no validity nor value; but nearly reſembling thoſe, which, in our time, that *antipode* to things as well as to himſelf, *Cardan* buſied himſelf in forming." Bacon's Works, Cenſure of the moſt eminent Philoſophers. Vol. II. page 52.

thus liable to cenſure; dare we affirm that thoſe of the moderns are exempted from the ſame errors, and free from the ſame prejudices? The contrary, we muſt acknowledge with regret, has too often been the caſe. Although the dictates of *Bacon* and the example of *Newton*, were ſufficient to have directed their enquiries, and encouraged them to ſurmount every obſtacle which might obſtruct their progreſs, yet a veneration for great names, and an overweening attachment to their own opinions, have ſtill continued to attend their reſearches, and mark their progreſs with error and abſurdity *. There have been, indeed, and ſtill are ſome noble and determined men, who, throwing aſide many of their prejudices, ſearch after truth with undaunted ardour, and deſpiſe as unworthy of acceptation, every opinion of their progenitors, which is not founded on obſervation or deduced from experiment. But theſe, alas, are comparatively few, and bear no porportion to that ſervile tribe of imitators, who receive, as the reſult of reaſon, and the dictates of truth, what are only the conjectures of men and the deformed offſpring of literary ambition. For theſe reaſons it would appear that the objection which we have ourſelves ſuppoſed is deſtitute of force, and unable to affect the concluſion which we have drawn. But though we were to allow its efficacy, it would only follow that the progreſs of ſcience at preſent, ſhould excell in rapidity its advancement among the ancients, as much as the preſent method of inveſtigating truth is ſuperior to that which was formerly in uſe: and not that in the one caſe it ſhould decreaſe and vaniſh, while in the other it is carried to the higheſt pitch of poſſible perfection.

Another argument againſt the doctrine now under review, may be deduced from a conſideration of the deſtiny of man. The ſlighteſt attention to the human mind is ſufficient to convince us that the operation of its faculties does not ceaſe with the annihilation of terreſtrial objects, and that this world is only preparatory to a better country, where they ſhall expand to their full maturity, uninfluenced by prejudice or by paſſion, and undiſturbed by thoſe external calamities which in this life chill their efforts and cramp their operations. Carrying this reflection along with us, it requires but little penetration to diſcern how inconſiſtent it is with the belief of a future ſtate, to ſuppoſe that the faculties of the mind ſhall riſe in this life to their higheſt ſummit of perfection, and that a period ſhall come when "IGNORANCE ſhall "be baniſhed from the earth, when "REASON ſhall univerſally prevail, "and when ALL men ſhall become "PHILOSOPHERS." Such a period as this is far from being deſirable; the politician would contemplate its approach with diſguſt, and the philoſopher would look upon it as the prelude to an age of darkneſs, more brutal and barbarous than any that have yet appeared. Subordination would then ceaſe, the mechanical arts would be totally neglected, and anarchy and confuſion reign predominant. But though we cannot aſſent to this Utopian viſion, we nevertheleſs look forward to a period, and our hopes will not be diſappointed, when cruelty and diſorder ſhall be baniſhed from the earth, when ſuperſtition, aſhamed, ſhall hide her head, when the altars

* In confirmation of this aſſertion, it will be neceſſary only to mention the celebrated *Euler*, whoſe works will ever remain as a ſtanding teſt of philoſophical credulity. His theories, however, though fraught with abſurdity, and contrary to thoſe very phenomena which they pretend to explain, have nevertheleſs been implicitly adopted by many philoſophers in *Ruſſia* and in *Germany*.

tars of idolatry ſhall be deſerted and overthrown, and when the mild precepts of true religion ſhall humanize the manners of the moſt ſavage nations, and reſtore peace to a diſtracted world. Theſe days of happineſs are not indeed to be our portion, but ſtill the heart warms with the thought, and expands while it contemplates this grand diſplay of univerſal benevolence.

Another argument, of very conſiderable force, might alſo be deduced from an attentive examination of the progreſs of any of thoſe ſciences which have been cultivated ſolely by the moderns, for, in this manner will we diſcover the rate of their advancement, and be enabled to determine whether or not they have proceeded with an uniform velocity, and whether this progreſs can be juſtly compared to the heavy body which acquires force as it falls. For this purpoſe *Magnetiſm* and *Electricity* might be conveniently uſed; and though the firſt of theſe ſciences was in ſome meaſure known to the *Greek* and *Roman* naturaliſts, yet as their acquaintance with it was extremely ſmall *, and as almoſt no attention was paid to it till the time of *Dr Gilbert*, we may ſafely conſider it as one of thoſe ſciences which owes its cultivation ſolely to the Moderns. After philoſophers were acquainted with the chief properties of the Loadſtone, with the variation and inclination of the Needle, and with the method of conſtructing artificial Magnets, they applied themſelves with diligence in inveſtigating the cauſe of theſe phenomena, and in aſcertaining the law of Magnetic action. It is now above a century ſince naturaliſts embarked in theſe important projects, and the reſults which they have obtained are as different as the faces that deduced them. While HUYGENS conceived the particles of the Magnetic Fluid to be ſimilar to *darts*, and the pores of the Loadſtone like ſmall *pipes* whoſe internal ſurfaces are covered with little *hairs* inclining to one ſide in order to allow the fluid to paſs one way while it hindered its return by the ſame road; DESCARTES ſuppoſed the ſame particles to be as ſo many *ſcrews* turned round in contrary directions, and the pores as ſo many *ſcrew boxes*, formed in an oppoſite manner, and fit for letting the fluid run, the one kind, only, from North to South, and the other from South to North; and EULER, improving upon the hypotheſes of Huygens, ſuppoſed that the pores of the Loadſtone were ſimilar to *Canals* with *Dockgates* which permitted the fluid only to paſs in one direction. Concerning the law of Magnetic action, their opinions have been as various. While NEWTON believed that it decreaſed in the triplicate ratio of the diſtance, DR HELSHAM and MR MITCHEL found it to be inverſely as the ſquares of the diſtances, and MR MARTIN diſcovered that it decreaſed, nearly, in the ſeſquiplicate ratio of the diſtance.

As remarks of a ſimilar kind may be applied to the progreſs of *Electricity*, we are authoriſed, from what has been ſaid, to conclude that the Arts and Sciences do not advance with an accelerated velocity; that the time will never come when Newton ſhall be reckoned a Tyro in Science, and when all men ſhall become philoſophers; but that their progreſs is ſimilar to the moving planet, which is ſometimes direct, ſometimes ſtationary, and ſometimes retrograde; that Newton will for ever be reckoned the father of philoſophy, and that a time ſhall come when peace and happineſs ſhall univerſally prevail, though ignorance will ſtill continue to reign, and though the faculties of the mind ſhall ſtill be ſuſceptible of higher improvement.

But beſide the falſehood of this doc-

* See *Plinii Hiſtoria Naturalis*. B. 36. Cap. 16.

doctrine, it appears to me, Sir, to be the foundation of that abſurd ſyſtem of modern philoſophiſm which has already gained ground among that ſilly part of our ſpecies who, in the emphatic language of Lord Bacon, "have modulated the brayings of "their ſophiſtical tutors, and by their "ſuperior ſkill in muſic have played "them off in a fine variety of tunes*." It appears to me, Sir, to be the foundation of that ſyſtem which cancels every obligation of morality, which ridicules every amiable diſpoſition of the ſoul, and condemns as baſe every generous affection of the heart?—of that ſyſtem which has, already, deluged Europe with blood, which has alienated the affections of the child from the parent, which has plunged the dagger of the dependent into the heart of his benefactor,—given additional keenneſs to the laſt convulſive pangs of expiring youth, and embittered the laſt moments of expiring age. To have fallen in the field of battle is at once honourable and glorious,—to have ſuffered the common fate of our forefathers, calls only for the tear of ſorrow;—but to ſee the child of our boſom eſtranged from our affections and plunged into miſery by an unfeeling philoſophy, brings a pang, to the benevolent heart which time cannot obliterate, and which death alone is able to cure. Theſe, Sir, are not the effuſions of a warm and ungovernable fancy, nor are they deſtitute of probability or devoid of evidence. It requires but a ſlight acquaintance, indeed, with this puny ſyſtem of modern ingenuity, to perceive their truth, and to diſcover the doctrine of infinite perfectibility lurking at the foundation of that awkward edifice which will finally deſtroy under its ruins its unwary owner; and it requires as little acquaintance with the human mind to perceive that the high opinion which ſome men have entertained of human ability has been the cauſe of ſome of thoſe dangerous ſpeculations which have involved in broils the faireſt quarter of the globe. To ſhew the narrow ſphere of human capacity is ſurely an inſult to the very abilities of thoſe who maintain its greatneſs: Is it neceſſary to paint to ſuch men their heathen forefathers, at an advanced period of ſociety, bending ther knees to ſtocks and ſtones, while the omnipotent Creator of all was neglected and deſpiſed? or is it neceſſary to turn their attention to the Pagan worſhipper, offering up the fruit of his body for the ſin of his ſoul? In this very land, Sir, on which we now live, on that very ſpot, perhaps, where the reader now ſits in peace, have numbers of young men ſuffered without a groan, in order to expiate the imaginary wrath of ſome imaginary being, whom the ſavage may deſcry in the whirlwind, or characteriſe in the ſtorm. Yet this is man whoſe powers have been ſo extolled, and whoſe unaſſiſted reaſon has been exalted to the ſkies.

By theſe remarks we are far from inſinuating that the author of *Candlelight Sketches* has adopted thoſe opinions which reſult from the doctrine we have been conſidering. But where the mariner is in danger of concealed rocks or dangerous quickſands, there ought the beacon to be erected before the veſſel and the crew are devoted to deſtruction.

I am,
SIR,
Yours, &c.
SCOTO-BRITANNUS.

EDINBURGH,
May 12th, 1801.

FOR

* *Bacon's Works*, Vol. II. page 55.

FOR THE EDINBURGH MAGAZINE.

BAMBOROUGH CASTLE; A TALE.

"Hark the wild maniac ſings to chide the gale,
That wafts ſo ſlow her lover's diſtant ſail;
Poor widowed wretch! 'twas there ſhe wept in vain,
Till memory fled her agonizing brain;
But mercy gave to charm the ſenſe of woe,
Ideal peace that truth could ne'er beſtow;
Warm on her heart the joys of fancy beam,
And aimleſs hope delights her darkeſt dream,—
Oft when yon moon has climb'd the midnight ſky,
And the lone ſeabird wakes its wildeſt cry,
Pil'd on the ſteep her blazing faggots burn,
To hail the bark that never can return;
And ſtill ſhe waits, but ſcarce forbears to weep,
That conſtant love can linger on the deep."

CAMPBELL'S PLEASURES OF HOPE.

BRIGHT and beautiful was the morning, when I aroſe, and wandered along the romantic cliffs and ſandy hills which incircle the ſhore. The rays of the ſun played on the waves, which tilted over each other, and gilded the venerable towers of Bamborough Caſtle, piled high on the overhanging rock, which reſtrains the beating ſurge. Here "Charity has fixed her choſen ſeat." Here, when fogs involve the adjacent iſles, ſhe repeats, at intervals, the ſignal-gun, to warn the mariner to ſhun the dangerous coaſt. Here, "at the dark and ſtormy hour," ſhe lights the watch-tower, to guide the veſſel toſſing on the tremendous deep;

Bleſt if her aid ſome fainting wretch might ſave,
And ſnatch him cold and ſpeechleſs from the wave."

The ſea fowl flocked around the cliffs; the ſweet morning beams called them from their rocky dwellings, and their wild cry, as they ſkimmed along "the world of waters," awakened in my mind, a train of melancholy reflections. I gazed with a mixture of awe and delight upon the holy towers of the Caſtle, and bleſſed the humane exertions of thoſe who have preſerved the lives of ſo many of our fellow creatures. The flag glittered from the topmoſt tower: bleſt ſignal! that invites the lowly train who pine in poverty and ſickneſs, to receive the means of alleviating the miſeries of want, and of allaying the pangs of diſeaſe. O! what joy muſt reign in your boſoms, when you ſee the eyes of the unfortunate liſtening with the tear of gratitude, as they behold their benefactors! unſpeakable muſt be your tranſport, and, oh! may it lead others to follow your bright example.

The ſhore around Bamborough Caſtle is ſteep, and rocky; and, when the ſtorm rages, it preſents a ſcene awfully grand; the waves, riſing mountains high, and daſhing againſt the ſhore; and the terrified ſcream of the ſea-fowl, faintly heard amidſt the roar of the angry waters. Now every thing looked calm and lovely. My mind wandered back to days long paſt, not to return; how painful the remembrance. Many of thoſe friends with whom I had marked the ſmooth ocean, and ſeen its billows foam at the approaching ſtorm, were now ſleeping in the duſt, cold and ſenſeleſs; their boſoms glowed no more with rapture at the view of ſcenery ſtriking and beautiful; ſoft be their repoſe, their memory I will cheriſh fondly; and, as I wander here alone, recall to mind their many virtues, and endeavouring to imitate them, I ſhall forget that I am lonely in the vale of grief.

As I muſed thus, my attention was directed to a rock at a little diſtance, upon which ſat a young woman of a remarkable appearance. She was dreſſed in mourning, and her eyes, which gazed wildly on the water, were ſuffuſed with tears: while I looked at her, I could perceive that her face brightened into a ſmile, but it was ſucceeded by a look of gloomy deſpondence; and muttering ſomething, ſhe aroſe, and tripping along the rocks, ſhe ſat down upon one, which was waſhed by each returning wave. I approached a little nearer her, but ſhe threw a glance

glance of mingled terror and concern upon me. I was awed by her appearance, and I dreaded to break into the ſanctuary of her grief, for grief of no common kind ſeemed to agitate her mind. Shall I be an intruder upon the ſorrows of the unhappy, ſaid I? no, I have felt how joyful it is to be alone in the hour of unſpeakable emotion, when the heart, in diſcloſing its ſecret woes, can meet with no alleviation. Thou art my ſiſter in affliction, but thy woes ſeem of a deeper dye than mine; oh that I could afford thee that conſolation, which cannot be mine. I was charmed with her countenance, which, though it was not lovely, had an expreſſive ſweetneſs, which intereſted the heart. I was affected at her melancholy ſituation: poor unhappy girl! would that I could relieve thee, but I muſt paſs on, and dare not enquire thy ſtory.

I returned home ſad and dejected; my mind, inſtead of being calmed or compoſed, had received a freſh wound, by the diſtreſſing ſituation of the fair ſtranger. Oh! how happy, thought I, are thoſe who are inſenſible to the feelings of the miſerable, and who ſcarcely feel for themſelves when they fall into difficulties and dangers. No, I will not envy them their calm, dull, breathing ſleep; they are not actuated by feelings which give ſuch lively ſenſations of pleaſure: for them friendſhip and love withhold their balmy ſweets: no, give me the anxious thought, and heartfelt ſigh, but withhold not the ſweet deluſion of thinking myſelf ſometimes happy.

Amidſt the little occupations and viſits, in which my friend Mrs Grey had engaged me, my mind wandered to the ſtranger, and I reſolved to reviſit the ſeaſide, and ſee if ſhe returned to the ſpot again. Next morning I went, and found the fair ſtranger wandering along the ſea beach. Her air was more wild and diſordered, ſhe ſtopt now and then, to take up a ſtone, then threw it into the water, and ſeemed amuſed with the motion it cauſed upon the wave, then ſhe wrung her hands and ſeemed tortured with the moſt agonizing feelings. I was now convinced that her mind was terribly diſordered, and fearful leſt ſhe ſhould think of committing ſome awful deed, I durſt not approach her, though I would moſt willingly have ſoothed her diſtracted ſpirit. I knew not where I could learn her ſtory, and what had led to the ſad calamity, of which I beheld ſuch evident ſymptoms. After much inquiry, I learned the following particulars:—

Eliza Richardson was the only child of a humble cottager. Her mother had married her father far below her own rank, and againſt the wiſhes of her parents. They took no notice of her, but left her to ſtruggle with many difficulties. Although ſhe had been accuſtomed to eaſe and affluence, yet ſhe accommodated herſelf to her ſituation with great firmneſs. She found herſelf happy in the eſteem and affection of a worthy man, but ſtill her mind would ſometimes give way to bitter reflections, and amidſt all the happineſs ſhe felt, a blank ſeemed to remain, which, in the fair picture ſhe had drawn of her future life, was filled with agreeable ſcenes. She always preſented a chearful face to her huſband, whoſe only anxiety was the thought of being unable to ſupport her in a manner ſuitable to her early education. They lived in a ſmall cottage on the ſeaſide, in the neighbourhood of Bamborough Caſtle, where James had ſome employment. They had one daughter; and little Eliza, who was the darling of her fond parents, promiſed to reward them for all their tender ſolicitude. Her diſpoſition was lively, and her heart affectionate: if ſhe had diſpleaſed her parents, ſhe was miſerable till ſhe had obtained their forgiveneſs; then impreſſions of joy quickly ſucceeded, and her mind, which felt keenly on having offended thoſe whom ſhe loved, was equally ſuſceptible of the higheſt delight, when ſhe thought ſhe was gratifying her parents by her dutiful behaviour. Thus years rolled pleaſantly away, and Harriet and James were ſoothed in their hours of anxiety, by the innocent prattle of their little daughter. But who can arreſt the tide of affliction, or detain the fleeting beams of happineſs that wander round the dwellings of mankind, and deceive our vain hearts with the idea of perpetual ſunſhine and delight! A malignant fever was raging in the village of Bamborough, James went every day to the Caſtle, and caught it. Six days he laboured under great agony; the ſeventh came, and brought a fit of delirium, in which he expired in the arms of his beloved wife. The ſtrong man fell, and terrible muſt be the ſtruggle, when we

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are called to combat with death in the hour of high health and enjoyment. James was buried in the church-yard of Bamborough, and followed to the grave with the regrets of all who knew him. Every body pitied the widow and her daughter, ſo ſoon deprived of the ſupport and comfort of their days. Poor Harriet was inconſolable, ſhe wept over her little daughter, and Eliza wept with her mother. She was incapable of judging of the extent of her loſs; but ſhe ſaw her mother afflicted, and ſhe felt no inclination to return to her uſual ſports. James had not ſaved much for the ſupport of his wife and child, but the humane exertions of Dr Sharp, the worthy poſſeſſor of the Caſtle, enabled Harriet to live ſomewhat comfortably. A few months after her huſband's death, Harriet was informed of the death of her father. He had expreſſed ſome anxiety about his daughter before his death, and though he did not deſire to ſee her, he left her a handſome proviſion along with her ſiſter and brother. Harriet felt uneaſy that ſhe was not permitted to ſee her father before he died. Her mind ſunk under thoſe accumulated diſtreſſes, and ſcarcely the playful ſmiles of Eliza could diſſipate the gloom that hung upon her ſpirits. However, ſhe was happy that a certain proviſion was ſecured for her Eliza, who was rather delicate, and had not been accuſtomed to ſo much exertion as would fit her for every occupation. Years rolled on, and Eliza became the delight of all who ſaw her, and the comfort and conſolation of her mother.

About this time there arrived at the Caſtle Colonel Ridley and his youngeſt ſon, a Lieutenant in the Navy. Colonel Ridley was fond of tracing his deſcent from one of the moſt ancient families in Northumberland, and was proud and haughty in his manners. When abroad with his regiment, he became acquainted with a young lady who had a large fortune. He inſinuated himſelf into the good graces of her parents, and married her a ſhort time after their firſt acquaintance. She was a beautiful and accompliſhed young woman, but vain and exacting in the attentions which ſhe thought due to her. She had been accuſtomed to receive great homage from all around her, and ſhe fancied that her huſband ſhould be her ſlave rather than her guide and director. Colonel Ridley had a firm unbending ſpirit; and though he loved his wife, and was willing to pay her every attention, yet he could not ſtoop to humour all the little whims and capricious freaks which conſtantly agitated her weak mind. She now found herſelf diſappointed in the opinion ſhe had formed of her huſband's temper and conduct; no croud of admirers now bowed around her, and ſhe was deſolate in the midſt of her own family. Conſtant mortifications, and childiſh contentions, broke her ſpirit, and brought her to an early grave a few years after their marriage.

Colonel Ridley was deeply afflicted at his loſs; he loved his wife moſt tenderly, and was concerned to think that the bad effects of an early education had ſown the ſeeds of ſo much miſery to the unhappy Matilda.

It ſhould always be the endeavour of parents to correct and regulate the paſſions of their children, as the happineſs of their future lives depends upon theſe neceſſary reſtraints. Were this more attended to, there would be fewer miſerable beings, whoſe hearts pine away under evils of their own creation.

She left two ſons, the youngeſt of whom accompanied his father to Bamborough Caſtle. William Ridley was a young man of an amiable diſpoſition and a prepoſſeſſing appearance. In one of his rambles along the ſea-ſide he ſaw Eliza, and was delighted with the ſimple and unaffected air which caſt a luſtre over a face and figure elegant and expreſſive. William had ſeen her mother at the Caſtle, and he was ſo intereſted in her look and the marks of a ſuperior mind that ſhone forth in her countenance, that he inquired into her ſtory. He learned that ſhe had a daughter who lived with her in a cottage cloſe by the ſea-ſide. William immediately ſuppoſed that ſhe was the daughter of Mrs Richardſon, and wandered about ſome time till ſhe went into the houſe. Harriet ſoon came out, and took her way to the caſtle. William haſtened to overtake her, and upon coming up, he ſaid, "This is a moſt delightful morning, you are early abroad to enjoy it, Mrs Richardſon; I will ſtep in upon you ſome morning, when I come out to take a ramble, and ſee your ſweet houſe, which is charmingly ſituated." Harriet ſaid ſhe would be happy to ſee him, and they parted. But William ſaw nothing through the

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reſt of the day but the form of Eliza, which roſe to him in every circle, and his imagination frequently wandered to the cottage on the ſea-ſhore.

He aroſe early next morning, and a viſit to Harriet was the only relief from a ſtate of ſtrange agitation which he had never before experienced. William was at the cottage juſt as Harriet and her daughter were ſitting down to breakfaſt. He ſat down along with them, and Eliza's gentle manners, and the ſweet ſenſibility which ſhe diſplayed, engaged the heart of William, and he lingered with the engaging Eliza till the day was far ſpent. He tore himſelf reluctantly away, flattered with the fond idea that his viſit had not been diſpleaſing to her. He viſited her often, and then walked along the ſea-ſide, converſing without reſtraint, and unfolding their mutual attachment. Sweet were thoſe moments when each perceived in the other ſentiments and qualities which heightened their affection, and promiſed them a laſting foundation for eſteem, when the bloom of beauty, and the warmth of youthful ardour had loſt their power to charm. But, alas! thoſe dreams of happineſs were ſoon to vaniſh; the dark cloud was gathering which was to burſt over their heads, and diſpel the vain illuſions of fancy which gilded the future proſpect.

Colonel Ridley was informed of the frequent viſits of his ſon to the cottage. He called him into his cloſet one day, and expreſsly prohibited his being found in the company of Harriet and her daughter. William was alarmed at the firm and decided manner in which his father addreſſed him. But his ſpirit revolted at the idea of controul where his heart felt kindneſs and affection. He reſolved to conduct himſelf with more caution, but the thought of being baniſhed from his Eliza was too agonizing to be borne; it dried up every ſource of happineſs within him, and he ſtrove in vain to aſſume his wonted chearfulneſs. Harriet began to be concerned about the intimacy between William and Eliza, and checked her daughter when ſhe heard her commending him with ſuch warmth and regard. Eliza was hurt at her mother's coldneſs, and wondered that any body could withhold from William that praiſe to which ſhe thought he was ſo juſtly entitled. But Harriet foreſaw that there was an inſuperable bar in the way of their connection, and beheld in the Colonel a coldneſs towards her which ſhe had never ſeen before, and ſhe immediately aſcribed it to the intimacy between her daughter and William. The Colonel ſaw that his ſon had not forgotten the inhabitants of the cottage, and he thought the beſt ſcheme was to remove him from the ſcene. He accordingly got him a commiſſion in a fleet then bound for the Weſt Indies. William was deeply afflicted at the idea of parting from Eliza, but duty and honour called him, and theſe calls he could not diſobey, without loſing his peace of mind, which even the love of Eliza could not reſtore. He gently hinted to her, that he would be neceſſarily abſent for ſome time: ſhe had been prepared by her mother to expect ſuch a declaration, and ſhe was overwhelmed at the thought of a ſeparation, which ſhe fancied was for ever. William left her, after an affectionate farewell; he departed in a gloomy ſtate of mind, and upon his voyage he was ſeized with a fever, and died after a few days illneſs; his laſt ſigh breathed forth for his Eliza, and the laſt thought was love to her. She was ſuffering anxiety, and torturing ſuſpence, having heard nothing from him; but the fatal intelligence ſoon arrived: Eliza heard that her lover's form reſted beneath the wave, and deſpair, dark and gloomy, took its place in her boſom, once the ſeat of joy and love. His father heard the accounts with much concern, as he blamed himſelf for being the cauſe of hurrying him from his country. Harriet tried in vain to ſoothe her daughter, but ſhe refuſed to liſten to her mother, to whom ſhe was ſo tenderly attached. The cottage, the ſea-beach, every thing reminded her of William, and ſhe called upon him conſtantly to come and chear her. Her mother fondly imagined that time would wear off the impreſſion of grief, which was ſo violent; but ſhe was deceived; a few dreary weeks brought on a deplorable inſanity, more agonizing to a mother's heart than death.

Eliza now wanders along the ſea-ſide, and calls upon William; then fancying ſhe ſees him on the waves, ſhe weeps for his death, and ſtretches forth her arms to enfold his cold form. Then joy reigns in her boſom, and ſhe prepares herſelf gayly to welcome his arrival; tells her mother that William is, coming,

coming, and bids her prepare thoſe things that he uſed to take delight in. Poor Eliza! ſhort be thy paſſage to the tomb, for dreary are thy wanderings, and diſmal the returning lights that ſerve to ſhow thee how dark and void every thing is within! How awful is her night "that knows of no returning morn!" Poor girl! I will pity thee, and pray to the Father of mercies to give thee one gleam of reaſon, to guide thy tortured ſpirit to the land of peace, and cloſe thy weary wanderings through the world of wo. M. S. A.

Poetry.

For the Edinburgh Magazine.

ANSWER TO *ALIENA**.

FRAE *Leithen's* gowanie banks and braes,
Whar' Nature wi' the Shepherd ſtrays,
The *Bard* to *Beautie* homage pays,
Nor can refuſe
To ſend theſe hamelt ruſtic lays
To your ſweet Muſe.—

Your Muſe, which frae "the pure Loch Ard,"
Sae kindlie cheers the humble Bard,
Wha joys to boaſt o' the regard
O' ane like you,
Wha weel may claim, as your reward,
Parnaſus' brow.

By Genius fir'd, in ilka line
You elegance an' ſtrength combine;
An' rooſe my lays in notes ſae fine,
That I'll ne'er quarrel,
Tho' a' the *Critic Curs* ſhou'd join,
An' 'gainſt me ſnarl.

Whar' *Leithen* thro' the wild-flowers ſtrays,
Aft hae I ſung in *Beautie's* praiſe,
But *Beautie* on my rural lays
Ne'er deign'd to ſmile,
'Till your ſweet ſang the Bard o'erpays
For a' his toil.

But cou'd I trou, what you lay down,
Rob Burns to equal in renown,
I wadnae gi'e that charter'd boon,
Upon my word,
For a' the ſtars that gem the crown
O' *George the third.*

But I, wi' unaſſumin' mind,
Maun lag an unco' way behind;
Not to my fau'ts ſae madlie blind,
Wi' my bit *gift*,
An' pou the ſcatter'd flowers I find,
Which *Burns* has left.

O Avarice! thou fiend accurs'd!
Thy neck I'd lengthen gif I durſt;
Thy bags cloſe-ſealed, tho' like to burſt,
Thou didſt reſerve,
An' left poor *Burns*, by hardſhip nurs'd,
In want to ſtarve!——

While round her flowerets Fancie throws,
While native genius wildlie grows,
While heart-enrapt'rin' paſſion glows,
Fame has decreed
To weave ilk baumie flower that blows
To crown thy head.

The Lark, on dewie wing upborne,
Wi' tuneful notes to hail the morn,
The Linnet on the flowerie thorn,
Beneath yon tree,
The Thruſh that welcomes night's return,
Mind me o' thee!

How ſweet thy melancholie ſtrain,
Which mourns an abſent darlin' ſwain!
Ilk feelin' heart will ſhare the pain
Whilk you endure,
An' wiſh your *Coſmo* back again
To bleſs your Bower.

How happy muſt his moments prove,
Wha can wi' thee frae crouds remove,
To ſhare thy ſrien'ſhip or thy love,
An' hear thy ſtrain,
Whar' flower-edg'd ſtreamlets windin' rove
Thro' wood an plain!

O! gif I kend the happy Bower,
In whilk you ſing awa' the hour,
By Poetrie's inſpirin' Power,
I mak' a vow,
That I on *Pegaſus* wad ſcour
To viſit you!

I ſee you aft, at night's return,
The giddy haunts o' Faſhion ſcorn,
On Fancie's eagle pinions borne
To joys refin'd;
An' walk wi' Nature to adorn
Th' immortal mind.

While leavin' thus the young an' gay,
You nature's various charms ſurvey,
Catch inſpiration as you ſtray
Frae noiſe apart,
An' pour the energetic lay
Warm frae the heart.

Whane'er

* See laſt Number, page 310.

Whane'er thy Bard lone-dandrin gaes
Thro' cowſlip banks, an' heathrie braes,
Or ſcroggy glens, whar' murm'rin' plays
The burn alang,
I'll chant ſweet ALIENA'S praiſe
In tunefu' ſang.

For, whan the bluſhin' *dawn* draws near,
An' ſcatters frae her miſt-wove hair
The dews that bob like diamonds clear
On bladed corn,
I liſt the notes, wi' raviſh'd ear,
That wake the morn.

An aft I court the *e'enin'* hour
To muſe by ſome auld haunted tower,
An' ſtop to mark the dewie flower
That gems the way,
An' on the mellow breezes pour
The penſive lay.

While wanderin' flow, the tim'rous Hare
Limps by, the clover-field to ſhare,
An ſcraichin' Paitricks ſtart wi' fear,
An' frae the trees
The Cuſhat's note ſteals on the ear
Borne by the breeze;

Ye earth-born ſons of *Mammon!* know,
The humble Bard wad not forego
The joys theſe ſacred hours beſtow
On *Leithen*'s ſhore,
For a' the wealth the *Indies* ſhow,
Whilk ye adore!

However bitter be the blaſt
That howls alang the drearie waſte
In whilk the Muſe's train is plac'd,
Yet joys they ſhare
Whilk ſure-pac'd proſe-ſock never taſte
To baniſh care!

O ALIENA! ever find
Theſe joys which meliorate the mind;
To thee may ilka Muſe be kind,
Whar'e'er ye ſtray;
An' may the wreath thy brows that bind
Bloom like the May!

May grief an' ſorrow ſhun thy Bower;
May pleaſure fill the ſmilin' hour,
An' ſtrow thy path wi' everie flower
That joy can gie;
An' whan ye feel th' inſpirin' Power,
Then think on me.

Inverleithen, 9*th May,* 1801. } *J. N.*

For the Edinburgh Magazine.

ON PARTING WITH A FRIEND.

THE Traveller, who wanders in Life's chequer'd vale,
Muſt have mark'd in his cheerfulleſt hour,
A deep ſigh of Woe load each ſweet balmy gale,
And a worm at the root of each flower!—
What then can alleviate the pang of diſtreſs?
What brighten the gloom of misfortune below?—
Sweet *Friendſhip*! 'tis thine every wrong to redreſs,
'Tis thine to remove all the ills which oppreſs
The heart-broken Victims of Woe!

Come, *Friendſhip*! and ſoothe all my ſorrows!—but why?—
Why ſhould I thy ſuccour implore?—
The tear of Remembrance ſtill drops from mine eye,
When I think on the days now no more!
At Fortune's ſtern dictate the friend of my heart,
Who ſhar'd all my ſorrows when faint and forlorn,
Who heal'd the deep wounds of Misfortune's fell dart,
And did even to joy half its ſweetneſs impart,
From my breaſt in a moment is torn!

At the ſmiling approach of the morn rob'd in miſt,
And gemm'd with bright ſpangles of dew;
Or when mild modeſt eve, moving ſlow from the eaſt,
Shades dark and more dark round her threw;
Where the ſtream kiſs'd its borders enamell'd with flowers,
And play'd o'er the pebbles, mid the dark bowering ſhade,
Enraptur'd, we paſs'd in ſweet converſe the hours,
Which enlighten'd the mind, and improv'd all its powers,
And the beauties of nature diſplay'd!

Why, Heaven! the hearts form'd for tenderneſs wound?—
Can *Affection* no pity command?— h
And why ſtrike ſo rudely the chords whic are tun'd
By Nature's moſt delicate hand?—
Muſt all the fine feelings, which enoble our race,
Yield a moment of pleaſure and ages of pain?—
No! Hope's daring eye darts thro' time's narrow ſpace,
Where Friends ſhall enjoy an eternal embrace,
In Pleaſure's eternal domain!

J. N.

Inverleithen.

For

For the Edinburgh Magazine.

VERSES;

Written on the perusal of J. N.'s *various Poetical Essays inserted in the* EDINBURGH MAGAZINE.

By Lady G—N *of* E——.

RESUME, delightful bard, thy doric ſtrains,
And thro' our ſouls with magic art diffuſe
The joys of ſong; while far-reſounding *Forth*
Shall fling exulting back thy charming lays
To *Leithen's* paſtoral ſtream; thy moral ſong
Shall pour congenial meekneſs o'er the heart,
And fill the liſt'ning ſwains with towering hopes.
Delighted through thy flowery groves we ſtray,
And mark thy finger as it ſkilful points,
From nature's varied works to nature's God.
Lo! through the blue ſerene that crowns yon hills,
Deſcends the awful genius of our land,
And round thy head with heavenly grace entwines
The laurel wreath which deck'd the manly brow
Of hapleſs BURNS, the pride of Scotian ſwains.
Thee, gentle bard, a happier fate attend!
May ſcowling Poverty keep far aloof
From thy meek dwelling, nor corrode thy heart,
With ſlow-conſuming cares, while o'er the vales
Of winding *Tweed* thy devious feet ſhall ſtray,
May bliſs connubial crown thy favoured head:
May conſcious virtue ſtill delight thy mind,
And o'er the ſabbath of thy days diffuſe
"The ſoul's calm ſun-ſhine and the heart-felt joy."

Thiſtle Street.

For the Edinburgh Magazine.

VERSES;

On four young Ladies planting a tree to Friendſhip.

SWEET plant, may winds and waters tend,
And long each guardian power defend,
To bloſſom many a rolling year,
Thy ſacred head, to Friendſhip dear.

No favour'd oak that meets the ſkies,
Although his thouſand branches riſe
To darken foreſts with their frown,
A prouder birth than thine has known.
Four ſiſter Loves, with mingling grace,
While Friendſhip rul'd each angel face,
Combin'd their hands thy ſtem to rear,
And dew'd thy cradle with a tear.

O by the bloom—the bloom of youth,
A pledge of childhood, faith and truth,
Of joys, with youth that haſte away,
To ages, dark, unborn, diſplay:

Array'd in glorious ever-green,
Tell the far diſtant loveleſs ſcene,
That ſwims on nature's cloſing eye,
The plant of Friendſhip ſhall not die.

Though hearts that love may ceaſe to glow,
And every voice be huſh'd and low,
And every cheek be cold and pale,
That warm'd to hear thy tender tale;

Yet ſtill, methinks, thy boughs ſhall ſhare,
Of faithful breaſts the ſecret prayer,
The woodman's heart thy trunk revere,
If e'er his boſom-friend was dear.

Of friendleſs chance the wanderer wide,
Shall lean to thine his houſeleſs ſide;
When dark December tears the grove,
And dream of endleſs peace above.

The youthful ſun ſhall partial ſeem
To hail thee with his morning beam;
And laſt thy bluſhing top diſplay,
The ſweetneſs of his parting ray.

In roſy May the woodland throng,
Shall ſoothe thee with their vernal ſong;
While raptures thrill each little wing,
That fans the paradiſe of ſpring.

The ſtar of eve ſhall bounteous ſhed,
Her tears of love to bathe thy head,
Though early nurs'd with holier dew,
Than evening's altar ever knew.

Edinburgh. B.

For the Edinburgh Magazine.

HOPE.

WHEN ſtorms aſſail, and tempeſts howl,
And warring elements confound us;
'Tis Hope alone can cheer the ſoul,
When nature ſeems to ſhrink around us.

Hope, precious Hope,—the poor man's wealth;
Our only friend, when Men deceive us;
The ſource of pleaſure, peace, and health,
What wretches were we, did ſhe leave us.

Should Fortune's frowns our efforts blaſt,
And mercenary friends forſake us,
On deſert ſhores our lots be caſt,
Still cheerful Hope can overtake us.

Hope, friendly Hope,—the wretches all,
The ſoldier's life, the lover's anchor,
Whoſe rays ſo animate the ball,
That every ſoul has cauſe to thank her.

Should

Should Party-ſpite, with ſavage wrong,
And black Ingratitude perplex us;
Or Slander's keen infernal tongue
Conſpire with Inſolence to vex us;

Still Hope, ſweet Hope, that ſoars aloft,
Can bear us up amidſt diſtreſſes,
Her words are kind, her looks are ſoft,
And every human care embraces.

Should all the ills of life aſſail,
Of earthly comforts to bereave us,
And ſad diſeaſe, and pain, prevail;
Nay, Death ſtand ready to receive us;

Still Hope, kind Hope, can pierce the gloom,
On wings of love and pity flying,
Can ſmooth the paſſage to the tomb,
And teach a luxury in dying!

Dalkeith, *Cinna.*
April 23*d* 1801.

For the Edinburgh Magazine.

VERSES WRITTEN AFTER A FOGGY DAY.

(*April* 16*th* 1801.)

WHEN Eurus ſends his withering blaſt,
Along the chill begetting vaſt
Of eaſtern weltering deeps;
Or when a ſhroud of vapours wove
Enraps us, whereſoe'er we rove,
And baleful moiſture drips;—
Then ſlow and languid moves the ſmother'd ſoul,
The ſpirits ceaſe to flow; the eye looks dim,
A *Siroc* ſadneſs chains its ſprightly roll,
And drowns each viſion of poetic dream:
Sombrous and drooping, all the objects ſeem
Which erſt were wont to chear the ready mind,
Gay hopes evaniſh, frightful phantoms gleam,
To Chloe's charms the ſenſeleſs eye is blind;
And every earthly joy, of bliſs falls far behind.—

But when diſſolved by potent ray,
The hoary darkneſs dies away,
And glittering ſcenes ſucceed;
When, from the yellow margin'd trees,
Sweet ſtrains are wafted by the breeze,
And incenſe from the mead;
Then ſtarts the ſoul, and bears away
Along the glad domain;
Baſks in the ray of gleaming day,
Enjoys the ſweets, which circling play,—
Then darts, on pinions light, thro' fancy's golden reign!

Gayly quick the viſions riſe,
To the fond enraptur'd eyes;
Amrauth vales extend around,
Vales, whoſe heav'nly notes reſound:
Waving mountains bound the view,
Mountains ting'd with golden hue:
Argent ſtreamlets intervene,
Where the Loves are often ſeen
Bathing in the amber wave.—
All is love, and all is joy,
Rich delights, which never cloy;
And powerful ſpirits guard the bleſſings which they gave!

Bear me henceforth, O Apollo!
From this murky leaden coaſt;
Point thy wand, and let me follow
To the land of fancy's boaſt.—
Bear me to ſome ſacred mountain,
By Italia's claſſic ſhore;
Place me by the trickling fountain,
Where thou *Maro* taught'ſt thy lore.—
Thro' the green glades let me wander,
Where the *Mincio* winds its way,
Or where *Anio's* waves meander,
Glittering to thy ſolar ray.—
Or where *Vaucluſe's* hallowed ſtream
Murmurs from its olive bed,
Let me ſit, and ſhare a beam
Like Petrarch, from th' inſpirer's head!
Let me ſtray the haunted groves,
Or lay me on ſome neighbouring height,
Where the gale, as round it roves,
Aids nature's flame, and fancy's flight—
Then will I raiſe, in pæans ſweet and ſtrong,
High anthems to the Delian God, while he inſpires the ſong!—

Edinburgh. *A. M.*

For the Edinburgh Magazine.

SONG.

Tune, "*Tom Bowling.*"

TO little William's turf-clad dwelling,
His penſive mother hied,
And ſat her down, with anguiſh ſwelling,
His moon-light grave beſide:
She ſigh'd the ſorrow of her boſom,
She wept her woe ſo ſoft,
That heav'n from her fond arms ſhould chooſe him
So ſoon to go aloft—ſo ſoon to go aloft.

In days of health, while gazing often
Upon his ſmiling face,
She heav'd in hope that he would ſoften
All her cares,—alas!—
Fond fancy ſaw his manhood blooming,
'Mongſt future ſcenes it rov'd,
Unconſcious of the awful dooming,
That call'd his ſoul aloft—that call'd his ſoul aloft.

She thought upon his little graces,
His cherub beaming mien,
She thought upon the ſweet embraces
Of many a tender ſcene;

Then

Then, on his grave, with boſom ſwelling,
Her ſtreaming eye turn'd oft,
Then, ſtretch'd her on the turf-clad dwelling,
And pray'd to go aloft—and pray'd to go aloft.

Edinburgh. *A. M.*

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HOUSE OF LORDS.

SEDITIOUS SOCIETIES.

ABSTRACT *of the* SECOND REPORT *of the* COMMITTEE *of the* HOUSE *of* LORDS.

WHEN it became known to ſome of the moſt ſtirring Members of the Society, which, under the name of the *London Correſponding Society*, is ſo particularly deſcribed in the former report, that the Act for preventing Seditious Meetings had expired, they drew together at firſt in ſmall parties with a degree of caution, changing frequently their place of meeting, and omitting their accuſtomed forms, being ſtill apprehenſive of the Act which had not then expired, for the ſuſpenſion of the *Habeas Corpus Act*. In this condition, various plans were formed in different meetings for reſuming and carrying on with more ſecurity, their former practices. Among other devices, one was propoſed and adopted by a conſiderable number, to aſſume the name and appearance of a *Benefit Society*.

Thoſe who were thus to take the name of a *Benefit Society* had no other purpoſe but to maſk under that name a *Political Society* formed for purpoſes the moſt flagitious; for it was expreſsly declared, that no fund raiſed by regular contribution ſhould form the ſtock of this Society, no perſons admitted members but thoſe of *Democratic* ſentiments, who were to receive copies of the Rules of a *Benefit Society*, not that they ſhould be obſerved, but that they might deceive the Magiſtrates, in caſe any of the Meetings ſhould be ſuſpected; converting thereby, in fraud of the law, an excellent eſtabliſhment for the *relief* of the *ſober* and *induſtrious poor*, into an inſtrument for the *deſtruction* of *ſobriety* and *induſtry*. Many members of the former *Correſponding Society* and their friends were in this manner engaged. The members to be admitted by a teſt, or declaration on oath, to be ſworn on the *Bible*, when it can be produced; but it is obſerved, that ſince *Paine's* "*Age of Reaſon*," it is looked on as a mark of *Incivism* to *keep a Bible*. The perſons intruſted to ſwear others, or, in the phraſe of the ſociety, to initiate them, are termed *Conductors*. They receive a written appointment; ten initiated are allotted to each Conductor, who is to make a report of them at ſtated times, to another officer, called a *Superintendant* appointed over every ten Conductors. To each ſuperintendant a *Meſſenger* is aſſigned, by whom he is to communicate with the *Executive*, the names and number of which are only to be known to themſelves. *Signs* are inſtituted, by which the members may know each other. The plan thus explained, was fully approved, and the *Benefit Society* agreed to form one *Indiviſible Society*, under the name of UNITED BRITONS. This Aſſociation appears to have taken place about the middle of the month of March laſt. In their general meetings they are ſomewhat reſerved on the ſubject of *Religion*, for fear of frightening away perſons who have ſome reſpect for *Religion* (which happily has been the caſe, and has contributed to the detecting of their ſchemes.) But it appears to your Committee that a very principal object of their leaders has been to uſe every means in their power to work upon all perſons whoſe religious opinions differ from thoſe of the eſtabliſhment; for which purpoſe the *General Executive* has recommended it in the ſtrongeſt manner to their followers to mix as much as poſſible with ſuch perſons, and, by concealing their own ſentiments, which are *adverſe to all Religion*, and *ſeemingly adopting thoſe of the perſons with whom they ſhould communicate*, to gain proſelytes to their *Political deſigns*, and thus to promote the execution of their miſchievous and determined purpoſe of *overthrowing the Conſtitution*. In the *confidential* meetings of the *Initiated*, however, they endeavour to turn the people againſt *Religion*, in order to *overthrow* the *State* through the *Church*; obſerving, that if there were no *Prieſts*, there would be no *Kings*. Amongſt the moſt frequent ſubjects treated in theſe confidential meetings of the *Initiated*, *Plans of Inſurrections* to be excited on the pretext of the High Price of Proviſions, but directed to the *Subverſion of Government*, have been diſcuſſed, and the means traced out for procuring arms of the moſt dangerous ſpecies. The members are inſtructed to frequent clubs where *Workmen* and *Soldiers* reſort, to appear there unconnected, and to hold oppoſite ſides in the queſtions they are inſtructed to raiſe.

raiſe. Their purpoſes are of a more ſanguinary complexion than the ordinary miſchiefs of a mob; for your Committee has had particular information of the time and place, and of ſome perſons attending the meeting within a very recent period, when a plan of ASSASSINATING *certain Members of Parliament* at their own houſes, formed with no inconſiderable degree of contrivance, was propoſed, and ſeemed to meet with the general acquieſcence of *all the company* that it would be *meritorious*.

It has alſo appeared to your Committee, that ſocieties of a ſimilar formation with this, ſince the period when it became generally known that the Act for preventing Seditious Meetings had expired, have been formed in various parts of the country, and, after the expiration of the *Act for Suſpending the Habeas Corpus Act*, aſſumed a bold and daring aſpect; beſides theſe places, where the operations of ſuch Societies, have only been known to the vigilant attention of the Magiſtrates, and kept down by their prudence and firmneſs, a very dangerous conſpiracy of a ſimilar nature has manifeſted itſelf in ſome parts of the country, which, from all its forms and habits, affords the ſtrongeſt preſumption of mutual intercourſe between thoſe *Conſpirators* and the UNITED BRITONS. The only apparent difference being, that the Meeting in the country, being chiefly connected with *Manufacturers*, is *obliged to aſſume a more apparent concern* for their intereſt in regard to the *dearneſs of living*, and *oſtenſibly* aims at the reduction of the price of proviſions, or the increaſe of the price of labour; whereas the Society of UNITED BRITONS in London does not heſitate to profeſs their wiſh to *frustrate every plan for the relief of the poor*; the High Price of Proviſions being the moſt *favourable* to their object of exciting *inſurrection!*

The Committee has further to obſerve, that by moſt certain intelligence, it appears that there ſtill exiſt in the dominions of the King's enemies, at leaſt two eſtabliſhed *Committees of Traitors* to the *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*, actively employed in carrying on correſpondence by their agents, with the *Leaders* of thoſe Societies, and abetting them in the moſt atrocious circumſtances of the crimes they are meditating, and encouraging them by holding out hopes of *Invaſion*.—The Committee has alſo had great reaſon to believe, that many of the *United Iriſh*, who, either by the lenity of the Government of that country, or by their own apprehenſion of its juſt ſeverity have taken refuge here, have, by all the means they had been uſed to practice, ſtimulated and inflamed the minds of the members of theſe meetings to an higher pitch of extravagance, and rendered it more neceſſary to ſubject them to that controul, which, in its former exerciſe, was as uſeful to themſelves as it was ſalutary to the State; for it is remarkable, that no act of reſtriction could be more truly preventive of evil, than the Statute in queſtion has proved to be, there having ſeldom occurred an occaſion for enforcing the Act during the period of its continuance; it is therefore the unanimous and decided opinion of your Committee, that the Bill now referred to their conſideration ought to paſs into a law.

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"The Bx appoints you to act as a Conductor.--They expect you will faithfully diſcharge your duty agreeable to the inſtructions you receive.

"*Health and Reſpect*,

A. M. Z.

"*March* 14, 1801."

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of

of being a member, he ſhall preſent the declaration of his voluntary acceptance, his name ſhall then be returned to the Conductor who lives moſt contiguous to him, who ſhall faithfully tranſmit to the Superintendant his report, to commence every ſecond Monday."

DECLARATION.

"In the awful preſence of Almighty God, I A. B. do voluntarily declare, that I will endeavour, to the utmoſt of my power, to obtain the object of this Union; namely, to recover thoſe rights which the Supreme Being, in his infinite bounty, have given to all men; and that neither hopes nor fears, rewards or puniſhments, ſhall ever induce me to inform on, or give evidence, directly or indirectly, concerning the buſineſs of this or any ſimilar Society.

So help me, God."

Tuesday. April 28.

SEDITIOUS BILL.

The *Duke of Bedford* oppoſed the third reading. He argued, that the evidence laid before the Houſe, through the Report of the Committee did not warrant them in countenancing a meaſure which militated againſt the firſt principles of the Conſtitution, as aſſerted at the Revolution in 1688. Neither did he think the Bill would afford the proper remedy for the evils apprehended; for the purpoſe of meeting thoſe, he thought the Common Law, as at preſent exiſting, amply ſufficient.

The *Earl of Westmorland* ſupported the bill.—With reſpect to the idea of the Noble Duke, that the bill trenched upon the firſt principles of the Conſtitution, he obſerved that the doctrine of the right of petitioning, as aſſerted at the Revolution, did not go to the length the Noble Duke ſeemed to imagine; it was a right of all others the moſt liable to be abuſed, an exceſs of which muſt abſolutely tend to its deſtruction; nor if the great Parliamentary Leader at that period had thought ſo, the Acts of the 13th of Charles II. would not have been ſuffered to remain on the Statute Books. Did ſuch a law as this enacted by the Bill exiſt in 1780, the diſgrace and plunder of the metropolis, by Lord George Gordon's deſperate mob, would not have taken place, and many lives would have been ſaved. When the meaſure was originally propoſed about three years ſince, it encountered a moſt ſtrenuous oppoſition upon every ſtage; that was not the caſe at preſent. Experience had fully evinced its ſalutary effects, and that no abuſe had been made by the Executive Government of the Powers conferred by it. He was borne out in this poſition by the circumſtance of no public oppoſition being made to its renewal, or petition to Parliament againſt it, ſuch was the ſentiment of the great body of the People; but the joy manifeſted by the Diſſaffected and Conſpiring, on the bill being lately ſuffered to expire, were ſtrong proofs of the neceſſity of renewing the meaſure, and as ſuch, he muſt preſs for its immediate third reading.

No further oppoſition being made, the bill was read a third time and paſſed Unanimouſly.

Tuesday, May 5.

SCOTS APPEAL.

Mackmickan versus Hutchieson.

The Houſe of Lords gave judgment in the Appeal of Mr Mackmickan of Balmae, againſt Thomas Hutchieſon, Tenant in Corbieton. The Tenant, by his leaſe, was obliged to remove from the farm at any term of Whitſunday, on having a year's notice; and he was in ſuch caſe to receive a certain ſum to defray the expence of ſowing graſs ſeeds, and for leaving the whole lands *in graſs*, and quitting *at a term of Whitsunday*. The notice was given on the 1ſt of April 1800, to quit at Whitſunday 1801. The Tenant began to plough as for this year's crop, upon an idea that he was, notwithſtanding the terms of the leaſe, intitled to the *ſitting* or way-going crop. The Landlord obtained an interdict from the Sheriff. The Tenant advocated the cauſe, and Lord Armadale Ordinary continued the interdict; but upon a reclaiming petition, the Court of Seſſion by a majority removed the interdict. From this interlocutor the Landlord appealed. The Lord Chancellor (Lord Eldon) declared himſelf clearly of opinion, upon the true conſtruction of the leaſe, that the Tenant was not entitled to plough for this year, or to take a ſitting crop. The Earl of Roſslyn (Lord Loughborough) concurred, and the Decree was ordered to be Reverſed.

Counſel for Apellant, Meſſrs. Adam and Wm. Erſkine; Solicitor, Mr Chalmer.—Counſel for Reſpondent, Meſſrs Clerk and Gillies; Solicitor, Mr Campbell.

Monday,

Monday, May 18.

THANKS TO THE ARMY IN EGYPT.

Lord Hobart obſerved, that from his official ſituation, the taſk fell to him, of moving for the honour of their Lordſhips' thanks to thoſe gallant Officers and Soldiers who had recently ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed themſelves in Egypt. To expatiate upon their merits would, he conceived, be a preſumption in him: he was aware, that no panegyric which he could beſtow, could enhance their merits in the eſtimation of their Lordſhips; theſe, he thought, were beſt expreſſed in the modeſt and ſenſible recitals of thoſe who tranſmitted the official accounts of the operations of the Army to this country. His Lordſhip then moved, "That the thanks of the Houſe be given to Major-Gen. the Hon. John Hely Hutchinſon, Major Generals Eyre Coote, John Moore, the Earl of Cavan, &c. &c. for their ſpirited and heroic exertions, when in ſpite of local difficulties, and the deſperate attack of a powerful and well-prepared army, on the 21ſt of March 1801, the Britiſh Arms obtained a brilliant victory."

The Motion was agreed to unanimouſly.

Lord Hobart then moved, the Thanks of the Houſe to the Officers and Soldiers. Agreed to unanimouſly.

His Lordſhip then propoſed the Thanks of the Houſe to Admiral Lord Keith, to whoſe conduct the Noble Lord paid ſome handſome compliments, as well as to Rear-Admiral Sir R. Bickerton, who was included in the motion, which was carried unanimouſly, and the Lord Chancellor was ordered in the uſual way to communicate the ſaid Votes to the reſpective Commanders.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, April 29.

Sir William Scott moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better regulation of his Majeſty's Prize Courts in America and the Weſt Indies, and for giving a more ſpeedy execution to the Decrees of the Lords Commiſſioners of Appeal. —Leave granted.

Thursday, April 30.

The *Attorney General* moved, "That the Houſe do reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole Houſe, on the Bill for more effectually preventing the Forgery of Notes of the Bank of England."

The *Lord Advocate* ſaid, he intended to have oppoſed going into this Committee, but ſome explanation having been made to him by the Supporters of the Bill, which ſhewed that they have no intention to inſert any thing in it, that can trench on the right of Private Companies, or Individuals, he ſhould not oppoſe the commitment of the Bill, but content himſelf with moving ſuch clauſes as might appear to him neceſſary for the ſecurity of theſe private rights.

Mr Robſon oppoſed the Bill altogether, as enabling the Bank of England to monopolize all the Paper circulation of the Kingdom, and to throw diſcredit upon the Paper iſſued by country Banks.

Sir Robert Peel thought it no hardſhip that the Bank of England ſhould have diſcriminating marks which private individuals had not. Forgeries were become ſo alarmingly extenſive, that it behoved the country to aid the Bank in ſuch meaſures as may put a ſtop to them. He conſidered the bill of great utility, as it would preſerve the credit of the Bank of England all over *Europe*.

The motion was agreed to without a diviſion, and the Bill went through the Committee.

Friday, May 1.

Mr Boyd Alexander obtained leave to bring in a bill for improving the harbour of Greenock, for eſtabliſhing certain rates of porterage, and alſo a nightly watch upon the river Clyde.

Monday, May 4.

Sir W. Elford roſe to move for leave to bring in a bill to give the ſame ſecurity to private Banks as the Bank of England had by the manufacture of a particular kind of of paper.

HORNE TOOKE.

The minutes of the report of the Committee relative to the eligibility of perſons in Holy Orders to ſit in that Houſe, being read,

Lord Temple entered minutely into the queſtion, and concluded with moving, that the Speaker do iſſue his Warrant for a New Writ for the Borough of Old Sarum, in the room of the Rev. John Horne Tooke, who was ineligible, being in Holy Orders.

The *Chancellor of the Exchequer*, in a very long ſpeech, entered minutely into all the precedents of Clergymen ſitting in Parliament, and concluded with moving, that the order of the day be now read.

Mr

Mr Horne Tooke begged to aſk the Houſe why he ſhould be treated in the manner he had been by the Noble Lord who made the motion before the Houſe —treated like a *felon*. He wiſhed to know why the Noble Lord had moved in that Houſe, that he ſhould attend in his place on that day? He had no crime to anſwer for, and he did not ſee why the queſtion could not be quietly argued, even though he did not attend in his place.—He could tell the Noble Lord, he did not conſider the Houſe diſgraced by his being a member of it; he had no advantage from it; he did not ſeek for a ſeat to ſcreen himſelf from creditors—he was not in debt. But having been ſent into that Houſe by a large body of his Conſtituents—*(a loud laugh)*—he was prepared, and he would defend his right to ſit in it. An Honourable Baronet actually ſat, he ſaid, in that Houſe whilſt in the poſſeſſion of Church livings. This was not his caſe, he had no intereſt in the Church—he did not derive the ſmalleſt advantage from it, nor had he for many years. He quoted a precedent of a perſon ſitting in that Houſe, being leſs eligible than himſelf; and he could quote other caſes equally ſtrong—uſage, he contended, was law; and the beſt of all law, if not contradicted by the expreſs law of the land.

Whatever way the Houſe thought proper to take up the queſtion, he ſaid he was able to meet it; and he was determined to keep his ſeat as much as if he valued it. He hoped the Houſe would not gratify the ſpleen of any individual, but ſuffer him to do what the Noble Lord would do, if it was attempted to ſtrip him and his family of the gleanings of the Treaſury, and the places they held in the Exchequer.

Mr Simeon contended that the Clergy were ineligible to ſit in that Houſe.

Mr Fox ſaid, that he thought the beſt way to get rid of the attack which a Noble Lord had made againſt a Member of that Houſe would be, to agree with the motion for proceeding to the Order of the Day; and he hoped this queſtion would never be revived again.

The *Chancellor of the Exchequer* explained, that his object was to deprecate a haſty deciſion on an important queſtion. He propoſed to ſubſtitute for the motion that the order of the day ſhould be read, a motion for the previous queſtion.

The Houſe divided on the motion for the previous queſtion;—For it 94; Againſt it 53; Majority 41.—Adjourned.

[Thus the queſtion of Mr Tooke's eligibility is put to reſt for the preſent Seſſions.]

Monday, May 11.

On the Motion of Mr Wm. Dundas, a new writ was ordered for the ſhire of Edinburgh, in the room of Robert Dundas, Eſq. (late Lord Advocate,) who has accepted the office of Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Scotland.

Thursday, May 14.

MESSAGE FROM THE KING.

Lord Hawkesbury brought up a Meſſage from his Majeſty, importing,

"That his Majeſty taking into his moſt ſerious conſideration, the imminent danger with which the Kingdom of Portugal, the ancient and natural Ally of the Crown of Great Britain, is threatened by the Power now at war with his Majeſty; as well as the Commercial Relation now ſubſiſting between the two Kingdoms, and relying on the well known zeal of the Commons, recommends it to them to conſider of means of affording ſuch aſſiſtance to the Crown of Portugal, as may enable her Moſt Faithful Majeſty to take ſuch meaſures againſt her enemies as the exigency of affairs may appear to require."

Lord Hawkesbury ſaid, that he ſhould, on Monday next, in the uſual form, move, "That this gracious communication from the Throne ſhould be referred to a Committee of Supply." He meant to propoſe a Reſolution in that Committee, that a ſum not exceeding 300,000l. be granted to his Majeſty, by way of advance, to be applied in ſuch manner, as circumſtances may, in his Majeſty's wiſdom, ſeem to require. He therefore moved, that his gracious Meſſage be referred to a Committee of Supply.—Ordered.

Monday, May 18.

SUBSIDY TO PORTUGAL.

Lord Hawkesbury roſe to make the motion he had given notice of. He ſaid, when the conduct of France to Naples and other States which have acceded to ſuch terms of Peace as ſhe has herſelf dictated, is recollected, he would aſk if ſome doubt may not be entertained on the property of Portugal, by following a ſimilar line of conduct with them, expoſing herſelf to ſimilar uſage? Should

it

it be thought wiſe and expedient for her to make Peace, the granting her this Subſidy is not intended to bind her to carry on the War. This country has generouſly liberated her from any engagements which might have operated as obſtacles to her following this courſe of policy; but ſtill the Subſidy would enable her to negotiate on a more reſpectable footing, and tend to ſecure to her better terms. His Lordſhip concluded with moving, "That the ſum of 300,000l. be granted to his Majeſty, to enable him to advance the like ſum to his good and faithful ally the Queen of Portugal, to enable her moſt Faithful Majeſty to take ſuch meaſures againſt her enemies, as the exigency of affairs may require."

The Reſolution was agreed to without a diviſion.

Mr M'Dowal moved that the bill for the improvement of Port-Glaſgow be read a ſecond time, which being done, it was ordered to be committed.

The *Chancellor of the Exchequer* moved, and it was unanimouſly agreed,—"That an humble Addreſs be preſented to his Majeſty, praying he will be graciouſly pleaſed to give directions for a Monument to be erected in the Cathedral of St Paul, to the Memory of the ever-to-be-lamented late Sir Ralph Abercromby, Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's Forces on the coaſt of Egypt, who ſurmounted by valour all local difficulties, and although oppoſed by a powerful and well prepared enemy, has eſtabliſhed and maintained a poſition neceſſary for further operations, and reſiſted the deſperate attack of choſen and veteran troops on the 21ſt of March 1801, when he received early in the engagement a mortal wound, but remained in the field, guiding by his direction, and animating by his courage, the perſons under his command, when he atchieved the brilliant victory of that day; and to aſſure his Majeſty that this Houſe will make good the expence thereof, &c.

Mr Addington likewiſe moved,

"That the thanks of this Houſe be given to Major-Gen. the Hon. Hely Hutchinſon, ſecond in Command, Generals Eyre Coote, Ludlow, John Moore, Earl Cavan, Hope, Doyle, Oakes, Finch (and ſome other names which we did not learn,) and the ſeveral Officers who ſerved under Sir Ralph Abercromby, for their ſplendid and heroic exertions, when, in ſpite of local difficulties, and the deſperate attacks of a powerful and well-prepared army, on the 21ſt of March, 1801, the Britiſh arms obtained a brilliant victory, &c."—Carried *nem. con.*

"That this Houſe doth highly approve of and acknowledge the diſtinguiſhed regularity, diſcipline, coolneſs, and valour diſplayed by the Non-commiſſioned officers and privates under the command of Sir R. Abercromby, on the memorable and brilliant operations of the Britiſh army in Egypt, and that the ſame be ſignified to them by the Commanders of their ſeveral corps, who are deſired to thank them for their exemplary conduct.—Carried *nem. con.*

"That the thanks of this Houſe be given to Admiral Lord Keith, for the diſtinguiſhed zeal and ability with which he made his diſpoſition for landing the troops on the coaſt of Egypt, in ſpite of all the obſtacles which he had to encounter, and the activity and exertion with which he aided and ſupported them, in effecting the deſcent, and carrying on operations againſt the enemy, &c."—Carried *nem. con.*

"That the thanks of this Houſe be given to Rear-Admiral Sir R. Bickerton, Bart. and the ſeveral Captains and officers under his command, for their cordial and effectual co-operation in landing and effecting their deſcent, and carrying on operations againſt the enemy on the coaſt of Egypt."—Carried *nem. con.*

"That this Houſe doth highly approve of and acknowledge the ſervice of the Seamen and Marines, under Lord Keith, &c. &c."—Carried *nem. con.*

Monthly Regiſter for May 1801.

From the London Gazette, April 25.

Admiralty-Office, April 25,

Copy of a letter from Captain Dixon, to Lord Keith, dated Genereux, Port Mahon, March 10, 1801,

My Lord,

I HAVE the ſatisfaction to incloſe a letter from Capt. Barlow, of his Majeſty's ſhip Phœbe, for your Lordſhip's information.

This

This very gallant and well-fought action, as related fully in Captain Barlow's letter, and much more ſtrongly marked in the hull of the French ſhip, warrants me in ſaying, that more ſkill or effective gunnery were never diſplayed in any combat than in tne preſent inſtance.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Manly Dixon.

Phœbe, at Sea, 20 Leagues East of Gibraltar, Feb. 20, 1801.

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform your Lordſhip, that yeſterday about four o'clock in the afternoon, his Majeſty's ſhip under my command being about 2 leagues to the eaſtward of Gibraltar, I diſcovered one of the enemy's ſhips under Ceuta, ſteering with a crowd of ſail to the eaſtward: I had the good fortune to bring her to a cloſe action about half paſt ſeven the ſame evening, which continued within piſtol-ſhot with unremitting fury about two hours, the enemy reſolutely oppoſing the animated and ſkilful exertions of my brave officers and men, until his ſhip was almoſt a wreck, five feet water in her hold, her guns diſmounted, and literally encumbered with dead, the number of which amounted to 200, and of wounded, to 143.

She proves to be the French frigate L'Africaine, of 44 guns, viz. 26 18-pounders on her main-deck, and 18 9-pounders on her quarter-deck and forecaſtle, a very fine ſhip about three years old, under the orders of the Chief of Diviſion Saunier, whoſe broad pendant was flying, and who, (with many principal officers both of the troops and of the marines,) was ſlain in the action, and commanded by Capt. Magendie, who is amongſt the wounded.

At the commencement of the action ſhe had 715 men; viz. 400 troops and artificers of various deſcriptions, under the command of Gen. Desfourneaux, and a crew of 315 officers and ſeamen; alſo 6 braſs field-pieces, ſeveral thouſand ſtand of arms, ammunition, and implements of agriculture. She ſailed from Rochfort on the 13th inſtant, in company with a frigate, from which ſhe parted on the following day in a gale of wind.

So tremendous and deciſive has been the effect of the fire of the Phœbe in this conteſt, that I muſt regret the inability of my pen to do juſtice to the merits of thoſe who directed it. It has been my duty on a former occaſion to report to their Lordſhips the meritorious conduct of my firſt Lieutenant, Holland, and the Lieutenants Bedford and Heywood; Lieut. Weaver of the marines; Mr Griffiths the maſter; the warrant and petty officers, and the whole of the ſhip's company, are entitled to all the commendation in the power of their commander to beſtow.

My ſatisfaction in relating comparatively the ſmall loſs we have ſuſtained is more eaſily imagined than deſcribed, as it amounts only to one ſeaman killed, two officers and ten ſeamen wounded; our damages are chiefly in maſts, yards, ſails, and rigging, the greateſt part of which are rendered unſerviceable.

I incloſe a copy of the French commander's report of the number killed and wounded on board L'Africaine, with the names of the officers.

I am, my Lord, &c.

Robert Barlow.

List of Killed and Wounded on board his Majeſty's ſhip Phœbe, in the action with the French frigate L'Africaine, on the 19th February.

Samuel Hayes, ſeaman, killed.

Two officers and ten ſeamen, wounded.

Names of Officers wounded, but ſince recovered.

Lieutenant Holland, and Mr Griffiths, maſter.

P. S. I have reaſon to believe Egypt to have been the deſtination of the force under the orders of Gen. Desfourneaux, and Commodore Saunier.

[Here follows a liſt of the French officers, ſoldiers, &c. killed and wounded on board the Africaine, amounting to two hundred killed, and one hundred and forty-three wounded.]

DISPATCHES FROM EGYPT.

From the London Gazette, May 9.

Downing Street, May 9.

A diſpatch addreſſed to the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, of which the following is a copy, was this day received at the office of the Right Hon. Lord Hobart, one of his Majeſty's Principal Secretaries of State, from General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majeſty troops ſerving in the Mediterranean.

Camp

Camp before Alexandria,
SIR, *March* 16.

Although it was not originally my intention to have commenced the operations of the British Army in Egypt on the ſide of Alexandria, yet circumſtances aroſe which induced me to change my opinion. We were much longer delayed on the coaſt of Aſia Minor than we had at firſt any reaſon to apprehend; and we were ultimately obliged to ſail from Marmarice in a very imperfect ſtate of preparation. I am fully ſenſible of the exertions of his Majeſty's Ambaſſador at the Ottoman Porte, as well as of the Quarter-Maſter-General, and the other officers who were ſent forward to provide for the neceſſities of the army. Our delays originated from other cauſes. For a conſiderable time previous to our ſailing the weather was extremely boiſterous, and the winds contrary. The moment that it became practicable to ſail with ſo large a fleet, Lord Keith put to ſea; we left Marmarice on the 22d of February, and came in ſight of Alexandria on the 1ſt of March.

On the 2d, the fleet anchored in Aboukir Bay. Until the 7th the ſea ran high, and no diſembarkation could be effected; on that day every arrangement was completed, and on the 8th, the troops forming the firſt diviſion, conſiſting of the reſerve under the command of Major-General Moore, the brigade of Guards, under the Hon. Major-Gen. Ludlow, and part of the firſt brigade under the command of Major-Gen. Coote, got into the boats early in the morning; they had, in general, from five to ſix miles to row, and did not arrive at the point of landing till ten o'clock. The front of diſembarkation was narrow, and a hill, which commanded the whole, ſeemed almoſt inacceſſible. The enemy were fully aware of our intention, were in force, and had every advantage on their ſide. The troops, however, notwithſtanding their being expoſed to a very ſevere cannonade, and under the fire of grape-ſhot, made good their landing, aſcended the hill with an intrepidity ſcarcely to be paralleled, and forced the enemy to retire, leaving behind him ſeven pieces of artillery and a number of horſes.

The troops that aſcended the hill were the 23d regiment, and the four flank companies of the 40th, under the command of Col. Spencer, whoſe coolneſs and good conduct Major-General Moore has mentioned to me in the higheſt terms of approbation. It is impoſſible to paſs over the good order in which the 28th and the 42d regiments landed, under the command of Brigadier-General Oakes, who was attached to the reſerve under Maj.-Gen. Moore; and the troops in general loſt not a moment in remedying any little diſorder which became unavoidable in a landing under ſuch circumſtances. The diſembarkation of the army continued on that and the following day. The troops which landed on the 8th advanced three miles the ſame day; and on the 12th the whole army moved forward, and came within ſight of the enemy, who was formed on an advantageous ridge, with his right to the canal of Alexandria, and his left towards the ſea. It was determined to attack them on the morning of the 13th, and in conſequence the army marched in two lines by the left, with an intention to turn their right flank. The troops had not been long in motion before the enemy deſcended from the heights on which they were formed, and attacked the leading brigades of both lines, which were commanded by Major-General Craddock and Major-General the Earl of Cavan.

The 90th regiment formed the advanced guard of the front line, and the 92d that of the ſecond—both battalions ſuffered conſiderably, and behaved in ſuch a manner as to merit the praiſe both of courage and diſcipline.—Major-General Cradock immediately formed his brigade to meet the attack made by the enemy; and the troops changed their poſition with a quickneſs and preciſion which did them the greateſt honour. The remainder of the army followed ſo good an example, and were immediately in a ſituation not only to face, but to repel the enemy. The reſerve, under the command of Major-General Moore, which was on the right, on the change of the poſition of the army, moved on in column, and covered the right flank. The army continued to advance, puſhing the enemy with the greateſt vigour, and ultimately forcing them to put themſelves under the protection of the fortified heights which form the principal defence of Alexandria. It was intended to have attacked them in this their laſt poſition; for which purpoſe the reſerve, under the command

command of Major-General Moore, which had remained in column during the whole of the day, was brought forward, and the second line, under the command of Major-General Hutchinſon, marched to the left acroſs a part of the Lake Mariotis, with a view to attack the enemy on both flanks; but on reconnoitring their poſition, and not being prepared to occupy it after it ſhould be carried, prudence required that the troops who had behaved ſo bravely, and who were ſtill willing to attempt any thing, however arduous, ſhould not be expoſed to a certain loſs, when the extent of the advantage could not be aſcertained. They were therefore withdrawn, and now occupy a poſition with their right to the ſea, and their left to the canal of Alexandria and Lake Mariotis, about a league from the town of Alexandria.

I have the greateſt ſatisfaction in ſaying, that the conduct of the Britiſh and foreign troops under my command is deſerving of the higheſt praiſe; their courage and their diſcipline have been equally conſpicuous. To all the General Officers I am indebted for their zeal and intelligence. From the Hon. Brigadier-Gen. Hope, Adjutant-Gen. and Lieut.-Col. Anſtruther, Quarter-Maſter-General, I have received every teſtimony of zeal, and the moſt able aſſiſtance in the operations of the army, and to the other officers of the General Staff, I feel obligations. On the 8th, the arrangements made by Lord Keith, were ſuch as to enable us to land at once a body of 6000 men.

The Hon. Capt. Cochrane, and thoſe other Captains and Officers of the Royal Navy, who were intruſted with the diſembarkation, not only of the troops, but of the artillery, ammunition, proviſions, and ſtores of all kinds, have exerted themſelves in ſuch a manner as to claim the warmeſt acknowledgements of the whole army. Sir Sidney Smith, and the other Captains and Officers of the Navy under his command, who landed with the army, have been indefatigable in their exertions in forwarding the ſervice on which they are employed. The enemy have left a ſmall garriſon in Aboukir caſtle; it has been neceſſary to bring up a few pieces of heavy artillery, and there is reaſon to believe it will ſpeedily ſurrender.

Majors Mackerras and Fletcher of the Royal Engineers, who went down in the Penelope frigate to ſurvey the coaſt of Egypt, a ſhort time before we ſailed from Marmarice, were unfortunately ſurprized in a ſmall boat in Aboukir Bay, the former was killed, and the latter taken priſoner. Our communication with the fleet is at preſent kept up by means of the Lake of Aboukir. We have been fortunate enough to find water ſufficient for the ſupply of the army; and we begin to derive ſome ſupplies from the country.

I have the honour to incloſe herewith, returns of the killed and wounded in the actions of the 8th and 13th inſt. together with a return of the artillery taken from the enemy on thoſe days. *Ralph Abercromby.*

P. S. I have had no means of aſcertaining the loſs of the enemy, but it muſt have been conſiderable.

Killed, Wounded, and Miſſing, March 8.

Total.—4 officers, 4 ſerjeants, 94 rank and file killed; 26 officers, 34 ſerjeants, 5 drummers, 450 rank and file wounded; 1 officer, 1 ſerjeant, 1 drummer, 32 rank and file miſſing.

Killed, Wounded, and Miſſing, March 13.

Total.—6 officers, 6 ſerjeants, 1 drummer, 143 rank and file, 21 horſes, killed; 66 officers, 1 quarter-maſter, 61 ſerjeants, 7 drummers, 946 rank and file 5 horſes, wounded; 1 rank and file miſſing.

(Signed) *John Hope*, Ad. Gen.

Return of Braſs and Iron Ordnance on March 8.

Braſs, in French meaſure. 1 twenty-ſix pounder; 1 eight pounder; 3 four-pounders; 1 ſix-inch howitzer.—Iron, 1 nine-pounder; 1 ſix pounder.—One ammunition waggon, and a ſmall quantity of ſhells, ſhot, and muſket ammunition.

Four field pieces, with a quantity of ammunition, taken on the 13th.

Admiralty-Office, May 9.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral Lord Keith, K. B. to Evan Nepean, Eſq. dated on board the Foudroyant, in the Bay of Aboukir, March 10, 1801.

SIR,

My diſpatches of the 22d ult. by the Speedwell, will have acquainted you, for the information of the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, that the armament on that day quitted the harbour of Marmarice for this place, which the whole fleet reached on the 2d inſt. The Turkiſh gun-boats and kaicks excepted,

cepted, all of which bore up, by night, for Macri, Cyprus, and other ports, during the prevalence of ſtrong weſterly gales we encountered on the paſſage.

Too much of the day of our arrival here had elapſed, before all the ſhips could get to anchorage, to admit of the landing being effected before the approach of night; and an unfortunate ſucceſſion of ſtrong northerly gales, attended by a heavy ſwell, rendered it impoſſible to diſembark before the 8th. The neceſſary preparations were made on the preceding evening. The boats began to receive the troops at two o'clock in the morning, and at three the ſignal was made for their proceeding to rendezvous near the Mondovi, anchored about a gun ſhot from the ſhore, where it had been determined that they were to be aſſembled and properly arranged; but ſuch was the extent of the anchorage occupied by ſo large a fleet, and ſo great the diſtance of many of them from any one given point, that it was not till nine the ſignal could be made for the boats to advance towards the ſhore.

The whole line immediately began to move with great celerity towards the beach between the caſtle of Aboukir and the entrance of the Sed, under the direction of the Hon. Captain Cochrane, of his Majeſty's ſhip the Ajax, aſſiſted by Captains Stevenſon, Scott, Larmour, Apthorpe, and Morriſon, of the Europa, Stately, Diadem, Druid, and Thiſbe, and the reſpective agents of tranſports, the right flank being protected by the Cruelle cutter, and the Dangereuſe and Janiſſary gun-veſſels, and the left, by the Enterprenante cutter, Malta ſchooner, and Negreſſe gun-veſſel, with two launches of the fleet in each, armed for the purpoſe of ſupplying the places of the Turkiſh gun-veſſels, of whoſe ſervice I had been deprived. Captain Sir Sydney Smith of the Tigre, with the Captains Riboleau, Guion, Saville, Burn, and Hillyar, of the Aſtrea, Eurus, Experiment, Blonde, and Nigre, appointed, with a detachment of ſeamen, to co-operate with the army, had the charge of the launches, with the field-artillery accompanying the troaps. The Tartarus and Fury were placed in proper ſituations for throwing ſhot and ſhells with advantage; and the Petterel, Camelon, and Minorca, were moored as near as poſſible, with their broadſides to the ſhore.

The enemy had not failed to avail himſelf of the unavoidable delays to which we had been expoſed, for ſtrengthening the naturally difficult coaſt to which we were to approach. The whole garriſon of Alexandria, ſaid to amount to near 3000 men, reinforced with many ſmall detachments that had been obſerved to advance from the Roſetta branch, was appointed for its defence. Field-pieces were placed on the moſt commanding heights, and in the intervals of the numerous ſand hills which cover the ſhore, all of which were lined with muſquetry; the beach on either wing being flanked with canon, and parties of cavalry held in readineſs to advance.

The fire of the enemy was ſucceſſively opened from their mortars and field-pieces, as the boats got within their reach, and as they approached to the ſhore the exceſſive diſcharge of grape-ſhot, and of muſquetry from behind the ſand hills, ſeemed to threaten them with deſtruction, while the caſtle of Aboukir on the right flank maintained a conſtant and haraſſing diſcharge of large ſhot and ſhells; but the ardour of our officers and men was not to be damped. No moment of heſitation intervened. The beach was arrived at, a footing obtained; the troops advanced, and the enemy forced to relinquiſh all the advantageous poſitions which they had held.

The boats returned without delay for the ſecond diviſion; and before the evening the whole army, with few exceptions, was landed, with ſuch articles of proviſions and ſtores as required the moſt immediate attention. I refer to the General's report for the loſs ſuſtained by the army in this dangerous and difficult ſervice. I incloſe the caſualties of the ſquadron and tranſports, and feel much ſatisfaction in conveying to their Lordſhips my full teſtimony to the merits of all the officers and men employed under my orders on this arduous occaſion. I am, &c. *Keith.*

Copy of a letter from Admiral Lord Keith, K. B. to Evan Nepean, Eſq. dated Aboukir Bay, March 16.

SIR,

The army had a ſharp conflict with the enemy on the 13th, as they advanced to Alexandria, for the particulars of which I refer to the General's details. I incloſe, for their Lordſhips information, an account of the loſs ſuffered on that occaſion by the detachment of ſeamen under the direction of Captain

Sir

Sir Sydney Smith, and by the battalion of marines, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, both co-operating with the army on ſhore.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Keith.

Killed and wounded in the action of 13th March.

One officer, five ſeamen killed; nineteen ſeamen wounded.—In the battalion of marines,—2 officers, 22 rank and file killed; 4 officers, 2 ſerjeants, 2 drummers, 28 rank and file wounded.—Total 59.

In diſembarking the army in Aboukir Bay, the 8th March.

Total. 22 ſeamen killed, 7 officers, 65 ſeamen wounded, 3 ſeamen miſſing.

Extract of a letter from the Right Hon. Lord Keith, to Evan Nepean, Eſq. dated 18th March 1801.

Aboukir Caſtle has capitulated. In the afternoon the Captain Bay arrived with two ſhips of the line, four or five frigates and corvettes, and ſome ſmall veſſels of the country.

From the London Gazette Extraordinary, May 15.

Diſpatches, of which the following are copies, addreſſed to the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, have been received this morning at the Office of the Right Hon. Lord Hobart, one of his Majeſty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Camp before Alexandria,

SIR, *March, 19, 1801.*

I have the honour to incloſe herewith a copy of the Articles of Capitulation of the Fort of Aboukir, together with a return of the priſoners ſurrendered, and of the Ordnance and Stores found in the fort. I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *R. Abercromby.*

[By the articles of Capitulation the French garriſon ſurrendered priſoners of war, to be tranſported on board the fleet, the private property of the garriſon was allowed to them, which was to be embarked in three hours. Neither the Greeks or Egyptians were compriſed in the Capitulation.]

Return of the Priſoners, ſurrendered in the Caſtle of Aboukir, March 18, 1801.

2 Chiefs of Battalion—8 Inferior Officers—140 Non-Commiſſioned Officers and Privates.

Dalhouſie, Col.
John Hope, Adj. Gen.

Return of Ordnance and Stores found in the Fort of Aboukir, March 18.

Braſs Guns, 4 French twenty-four pounders.—Mortars, 2 French twelve-inch.—Iron Guns, 3 French eight-pounders, 3 French three pounders.—Travelling Carriages, 4 twenty-four pounders.—Standing Ditto, 3 eight-pounders, and 3 three-pounders.—2 iron beds for mortars.—800 round and 40 grape twenty-four-pound ſhot—100 round and 50 grape eight-pound ſhot.——600 empty ſhells.—90 barrels of powder, of 200lbs. each.—170 French muſkets.—140 cartouch boxes.—200 muſket flints.—5 cwt. of match.

N. B. There are a quantity of ſmall ſtores not yet taken an account of.

Camp, four miles from Alex-

SIR, *andria. April, 5.*

I have the honour to acquaint you, that on the 18th of March an affair took place between a patrole of our cavalry and one of the enemy, in the neighbourhood of Alexandria. I have to regret that Col. Archdall of the 12th light dragoons received a wound in the arm, which has ſince been amputated, and that we have loſt ſome valuable officers and men. Incloſed herewith I have the honour to tranſmit to you a liſt of the killed, wounded, and taken priſoners on that day. I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *J. H. Hutchinſon.*

Killed, wounded, and miſſing, March 18.

Total. 1 quarter-maſter, 7 rank & file, 23 horſes killed; 2 officers, 1 ſerjeant, 6 rank and file, 12 horſes wounded; 3 officers, 1 quarter-maſter, 12 rank and file, 7 horſes miſſing.

Head-Quarters Camp, four miles

SIR, *from Alexandria, April, 5.*

I have the honour to inform you, that after the affair of the 13th of March, the army took a poſition about 4 miles from Alexandria having a ſandy plain in their front, the ſea on their right, and the Canal of Alexandria (at preſent dry) and the Lake of Aboukir on their left. In this poſition we remained without any material occurrence taking place till the 21ſt of March, when the enemy attacked us with nearly the whole of their collected force, amounting probably to 11,000 or 12,000 men. Of 14 demi-brigades of infantry, which the French have in this country, twelve appear to have been engaged, and all their cavalry, with the exception of one regiment.

The

The enemy made the following diſpoſition of their army:

General Lanuſſe was on their left, with four demi-brigades of infantry, and a conſiderable body of cavalry, commanded by Gen. Roize; General Friant and Rampon were in the centre, with five demi-brigades; Gen. Regnier on the right, with two demi-brigades and two regiments of cavalry; General D'Eſtain commanded the advanced guard, conſiſting of one demi-brigade, ſome light troops, and a detachment of cavalry.

The action commenced about an hour before day-light, by a falſe attack on our left, which was under Major-Gen. Craddock's command, where they were ſoon repulſed. The moſt vigorous efforts of the enemy were however directed againſt our right, which they uſed every poſſible exertion to turn. The attack on that point was begun with the greateſt impetuoſity by the French infantry, ſuſtained by a ſtrong body of cavalry, who charged in column. They were received by our troops with equal ardour, and the utmoſt ſteadineſs and diſcipline. The conteſt was unuſually obſtinate; the enemy were twice repulſed, and their cavalry were repeatedly mixed with our infantry. They at length retired, leaving a prodigious number of dead and wounded on the field.

While this was paſſing on the right, they attempted to penetrate on our centre with a column of infantry, who were alſo repulſed, and obliged to retreat with loſs. The French during the whole of the action refuſed their right. They puſhed forward, however, a corps of light troops, ſupported by a body of infantry and cavalry to keep our left in check, which certainly was, at that time, the weakeſt part of our line.

We have taken about two hundred priſoners (not wounded;) but it was impoſſible to purſue our victory, on account of our inferiority in cavalry, and becauſe the French had lined the oppoſite hills with cannon, under which they retired. We alſo have ſuffered conſiderably; few more ſevere actions have ever been fought, conſidering the numbers engaged on both ſides. We have ſuſtained an irreparable loſs in the perſon of our never ſufficiently to be lamented Commander in Chief, Sir Ralph Abercromby, who was mortally wounded in the action, and died on the 28th of March. I believe he was wounded early, but he concealed his ſituation from thoſe about him, and continued in the field, giving his orders with that coolneſs and perſpicuity, which had ever marked his character, till long after the action was over, when he fainted thro' weakneſs and loſs of blood.—Were it permitted for a ſoldier to regret any one who has fallen in the ſervice of his country, I might be excuſed for lamenting him, more than any other perſon; but it is ſome conſolation to thoſe who tenderly loved him, that as his life was Honourable, ſo was his death Glorious. —His memory will be recorded in the annals of his country—will be ſacred to every Britiſh Soldier, and embalmed in the recollection of a grateful poſterity.

It is impoſſible for me to do juſtice to the zeal of the officers and to the gallantry of the ſoldiers of this army. The reſerve, againſt whom the principal attack of the enemy was directed, conducted themſelves with unexampled ſpirit. They reſiſted the impetuoſity of the French infantry, and repulſed ſeveral charges of cavalry. Major General Moore was wounded at their head, though not dangerouſly. I regret, however, the temporary abſence from the army of this highly valuable and meritorious officer, whoſe counſel and cooperation would be ſo highly neceſſary to me at this moment. Brigadier-Gen. Oakes was wounded nearly at the ſame time, and the army has been deprived of the ſervice of an excellent officer. The 28th and 42d regiments acted in the moſt diſtinguiſhed and brilliant manner.—Colonel Paget, an officer of great promiſe, was wounded at the head of the former regiment; he has ſince, though not quite recovered, returned to his duty.

Brigadier-Gen. Stuart and the Foreign Brigade, ſupported the reſerve with much promptneſs and ſpirit: indeed, it is but juſtice to his corps to ſay, that they have, on all occaſions, endeavoured to emulate the zeal and ſpirit exhibited by the Britiſh troops, and have perfectly ſucceeded. Major-Gen. Ludlow deſerves much approbation for his conduct when the centre of the army was attacked; under his guidance the Guards conducted themſelves in the moſt cool, intrepid, and ſoldier-like manner; they received very effectual ſupport by a movement of the right of General Coote's Brigade. Brigadier-General

General Hope was wounded in the hand; the army has been deprived of the ſervice of a moſt active, zealous, and judicious officer.

The loſs of the enemy has been great; it is calculated at upwards of Three Thouſand killed, wounded, and taken priſoners. Gen. Roize, who commanded the cavalry, which ſuffered conſiderably, was killed in the field.—Generals Lanuſſe and Bodet are ſince dead of their wounds. I have been informed that ſeveral other General Officers, whoſe names I do not know, have been either killed or wounded.

I cannot conclude this letter without ſolemnly aſſuring you, that, in the arduous conteſt in which we are at preſent engaged, his Majeſty's troops in Egypt have faithfully diſcharged their duty to their country, and nobly upheld the fame of the Britiſh Name and Nation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *J. H. Hutchinſon.*

Killed, wounded, and miſſing, on the 21ſt March, 1801.

Total—10 officers, 9 ſerjeants, 224 rank and file, 2 horſes killed; 60 officers, 48 ſerjeants, 3 drummers, 1082 rank and file, 3 horſes wounded; 3 officers, 1 ſerjeant, 28 rank and file miſſing.

Admiralty Office, May 15.

Lieutenant Corbett, late of the Fulmmante cutter, arrived this morning from the coaſt of Egypt, with a diſpatch from Admiral Lord Keith, Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's ſhips and veſſels in the Mediterranean, to Evan Nepean, Eſq. Secretary of the Admiralty, dated on board his Majeſty's ſhip Foudroyant, in the Bay of Aboukir, 1ſt April 1801, of which the following is a copy:

SIR, *Aboukir Bay, April 1. 1801.*

I have very great concern in acquainting you, that in a deſperate attack made upon our lines by the French army on the morning of the 21ſt ult. my gallant and reſpectable Colleague, General Sir Ralph Abercromby, unfortunately received a wound, of which he died on board this ſhip on the 28th. It is unneceſſary to ſay how much this calamity has been regretted by the army and by the fleet. Their Lordſhips will obſerve that the enemy were repulſed with very great loſs. I incloſe, for their information, a copy of Sir Sidney Smith's report of that ſuſtained by the detachment of ſeamen ſerving under his orders; and have the pleaſure of adding that his own wound has not been ſo material as to deprive me of his ſervices. The marines were not engaged, having been, previouſly to the action, appointed to the duty of Aboukir Caſtle, and its vicinity.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Keith.

P. S. The Captain Pacha arrived on the 26th ult. with three ſail of the line and a body of troops; and on the following day a Turkiſh Vice-Admiral joined.

Killed and Wounded, March 21ſt.

Total.—1 officer, 3 ſeamen, killed; 2 officers, 18 ſeamen, wounded.

(End of the Gazettes.)

DENMARK.

Copenhagen, May 9.

A Courier has arrived here from the Emperor Alexander, with advices that it was not the intention of his Imperial Majeſty to ſecede from the Northern Coalition.

Admiral Totty's Squadron is arrived in the Road of Copenhagen.

A letter from Carlſcrona, of the 4th May, ſhews that the beſt underſtanding prevailed between the Court of Sweden and the Britiſh Admiral.

OPENING OF THE ELBE.

The following are the conditions relative to the Free Navigation of the Elbe, propoſed in a letter from Sir Jas. Crawford to Prince Charles of Heſſe Caſſel, in a letter dated Hamburgh, May 7, 1801, and fully aſſented to by the Prince, in his anſwer of the ſame date:

1. The Neutrality of the Elbe ſhall be completely reſtored from this day, and free entrance ſhall be granted to every ſhip, whatever flag it may bear. In the unfortunate caſe of a renewal of hoſtilities between England and Denmark, no ſhips in the Elbe, or which may arrive in conſequence of this Convention, ſhall be ſubject to embargo or moleſtation.

2. All Britiſh goods or property which from this day ſhall arrive in the Elbe, ſhall

ſhall be free in every caſe from all ſequeſtration or ſearch.

3. Should the Court of Copenhagen with to recede from this Convention, ſix weeks notice ſhall be given; and this Convention ſhall be in force during theſe ſix weeks.

On the other part, I engage that the Daniſh ſhips from the harbours of the Elbe bound to Greenland or Norway, ſhall be provided with the neceſſary paſſes for them to proceed on their voyage, and return without in any manner being detained or moleſted by the Britiſh.

RUSSIA.

St Peterſburgh, April 10.

On the 13th inſt. the Senate was honoured with the preſence of his Imperial Majeſty. Several Ukaſes have been publiſhed: 1. Confirming the Rights of the Nobility. 2. Re-eſtabliſhing the Regulations of Catharine the Great, for the encouragement of commerce and induſtry, and confirming the City Charter. 3. An Act of Indemnity. 4. Aboliſhing the Chancery of Inquiſition. 5. Repealing the Prohibition of the Exportation of Commodities, and providing indemnifications for thoſe who had ſuffered by it.

From the LONDON *Papers.*

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, *May* 7.

The KING, *v.* the Rev. A. BEEVOR.

The Defendant, the Rev. Auguſtus Beevor, was brought into Court to receive its judgment, for ſending a challenge to Major Payne.

Mr Juſtice Groſe—"Auguſtus Beevor, you are here to receive the Judgment of the Court on a conviction, upon an information, charging you with having written different letters with intent to provoke Edward Dawes Payne to fight a duel. You have been guilty of a violation of the law in a manner diſgraceful to you as a member of ſociety, and moſt diſgraceful to you as a Miniſter of Religion. The ſituation of the proſecutor, who held a military character, and your publicly affronting him in the ſtreets of Norwich, are but ſo many circumſtances of aggravation. We find cool deliberation, and perſevering malice, in the breaſt of one whoſe peculiar duty it was to preach peace to others; we find you ſtriving to provoke a man to commit the horrible crime of murder, and endeavouring to perpetrate the ſame foul offence yourſelf. How you can reconcile this to the mild precepts of the Goſpel, which enjoins forgiveneſs of injuries, and teaches him whoſe cheek is ſmote to turn the other ſide, is a ſubject for your own conſideration, but it is far from being conſonant to the character of a chriſtian. From the proſecutor you have received a leſſon of forbearance, which, it is to be hoped, you will in future practiſe. Aware that, had you ſucceeded, your life would have been forfeited to the law, the proſecutor prudently declined your challenge, and by ſo doing may have poſſibly ſaved you from the infamy attendant on the commiſſion of murder, or have ſpared your life from becoming a juſt ſacrifice to the law. We are ſorry to obſerve, that your crime is one which is increaſing in this country, and that this is the ſecond inſtance of its having been committed by one of your ſacred Function. This is the more to be lamented, when it is conſidered how ſuch an offence degrades the Miniſters of Religion, in the eyes of thoſe by whom they are entitled to be regarded with reſpect. If men will not profit by the puniſhment of others, they muſt ſubmit to be made the objects of puniſhment themſelves. The Court, taking all the circumſtances of your caſe into conſideration, order and adjudge that you pay a fine to the King of ten marks; that you be impriſoned in the priſon of this Court for the ſpace of three weeks; that you give ſecurity for your good behaviour for three years, yourſelf in 500l. and two ſureties in 250l. each; and that you be further impriſoned until ſuch fine is paid, and ſuch ſecurity entered into.

The Defendant was immediately conveyed to the King's Bench priſon.

Lord Nelſon, ſecond in command in the Baltic expedition, is created a Viſcount; and Admiral Graves, who was the third, a Knight of the Bath.—Reſpecting the honours reſerved for Sir Hyde Parker, late Commander in Chief in this expedition, we have not yet received any information.

A miſunderſtanding exiſts between Sir Hyde Parker and the Firſt Lord of the Admiralty, which, it is ſuppoſed, will lead to a ſerious inquiry.

John Wentworth Holland, Firſt Lieutenant of the Phœbe frigate, is promot-

ed

ed to the rank of Commander in his Majesty's Nay, for his gallant conduct in the late action with the French frigate L'Africaine.

THE BRITISH NAVAL FORCE,

To the First of May. 1801. *Exclusive of Hired Armed Vessels, &c,*

	Line	50's.	*Fr.*	*Sps.*	*Tot.*
In Port and fitting,	16	3	12	68	99
Guard-ships, Hospital ships, &c.	4	1	2	0	7
In the English and Irish Channels,	25	0	33	40	98
In the Downs and North Seas, .	9	2	22	58	91
On the Baltic Service	21	2	7	32	62
West Indies, and on the passage, . .	2	1	31	27	61
At Jamaica, . .	4	0	18	11	33
America and Newfoundland, . .	0	0	4	6	10
East Indies, and on the passage, .	10	6	9	13	38
Africa, and on Secret Expeditions,	8	2	15	9	34
Coast of Portugal, Gibraltar, and Mediterranean, . .	20	2	51	27	100
Hospital and Prison-Ships,	17	2	4	0	23
Total in commission,	136	21	208	291	656
Receiving ships, .	9	2	9	1	21
Serviceable and repairing, . . .	11	2	5	6	24
In ordinary, . . .	20	0	22	31	73
Building, . . .	19	2	5	1	27
Total,	195	27	249	330	801

BRITISH ARMY.

	Regulars. Cav.	*Fenc.* Inf.	*Fenc.* Cav.	*Fenc.* Inf.	*Tot.* Mil.	*Inv.* Bat.	*Inv.* Com.
England and Wales,	25	22	—	4	74	125	40
North Britain,	1	—	—	—	12	13	6
Ireland,	6	11	13	32	—	62	6
Jersey, Guernsey, &c.	—	9	—	2	—	11	20
The Baltic,	10	—	—	—	—	1	—
Gibraltar,	—	5	—	4	—	9	—
Minorca,	—	7	—	1	—	8	—
Malta,	—	5	—	—	—	5	—
Egypt,	3	22	—	—	—	25	—
Canada, Nova-Scotia, &c.	—	5	—	1	—	6	—
West Indies,	1	35	—	—	—	36	—
C. of Good Hope,	1	6	—	—	—	7	—
East Indies,	4	18	—	—	—	22	—
Total	41	146	13	44	86	330*	72

May 20. The King was pleased to grant the dignity of a Baroness of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, unto Mary Anne Lady Abercromby, widow of the Right Hon. Lieut.-General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B. by the name, stile, and title of Baroness Abercromby, of Aboukir, and of Tullibody, in the county of Clackmannan; and to grant to the said Lady Abercromby, with reversion to the two next succeeding heirs-male of the late Sir Ralph Abercromby, who shall bear the title of Baron Abercromby, a net Pension of 2000l. per annum.

The King has been pleased to constitute and appoint George Prevost, Esq. Brigadier-General of his Majesty's Forces, to be Lieutenant-Governor of the island of St Lucia, in America.

The King has been pleased to constitute and appoint George Nugent, Esq. Major-General of his Majesty's Forces, to be Lieutenant-Governor of the island of Jamaica, in America, in the room of Alexander Earl of Balcarras.

The King has been pleased to constitute and appoint Mr Archibald Burns to be Commissary of the Commissariot of Hamilton and Campsey, in the room of Mr Robert Frame, deceased.

The Danish and Swedish West India Islands, lately captured by the British, are very valuable, particularly the island of St Croix, or Santa Cruz, which is highly cultivated in every spot, and resembles a garden. It is scarcely inferior to any Island in the West Indies. Its affluence is immense, producing annually about 20,000 hogsheads of sugar, (the last crop was 36,000 hogsheads, 10 cwt. each,) each hogshead of 1500lb. weight; 10,000 hogsheads of rum; 3000 bales of cotton, 300lb. to the bale.

An instance of suicide lately occurred in Paris,—Citizen Desplans, one of the Central Museum, shot himself. Previously to his death, he wrote this note, "It would be wrong to consider any individual as an accomplice in my misfortune—I have ruined myself by Gambling—to me alone the crime is to be ascribed."

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.

April. 28. The Associate Burgher Synod, which met this day at Edinburgh, agreed

* Exclusive of the East India Company's Troops, Artillery and Engineers at home and abroad, Independent Companies, Additional Companies of Regiments on Foreign Stations, Recruiting Corps, Volunteers, &c.

agreed to tranſlate the Rev. John Dick, at Slateford to be colleague to the Rev. Alex. Pirie, miniſter of the Aſſociate Congregation, Shuttle-ſtreet, Glaſgow, on an harmonious call from that congregation.

May 1. The boiling houſe at Carmyle Field was broke into by William Fogo, and James Spiers, two notorious offenders, who have at three different times carried off goods from the ſame place ſince the beginning of February. Spiers, who had been formerly manager of the field, was the firſt who entered the boiling houſe, and was immediately ſhot, and mortally wounded by the owner, who, from the determination of diſcovery, had been induced to watch for ſome weeks paſt. The unfortunate man lived but a few hours after, and made a full confeſſion, before ſeveral witneſſes, that he had been in the practice for eight years paſt, of robbing not only this, but ſeveral other fields in the neighbourhood of Glaſgow. Upon report of the gun, Fogo made his eſcape, and has not been heard of ſince.

12. The Right Hon. Lord Chief Baron Montgomery took leave of the Court of Exchequer in a very affecting ſpeech. The attachment and reſpect which this venerable judge, after a ſervice of twenty-ſix years, carries with him into his retirement, are ſuch as the length of that ſervice, and the highly meritorious manner in which he exerciſed his office, deſerved. Integrity, attention, impartiality, and candour, were the virtues which he eminently poſſeſſed as a judge; while, as a man, he is not leſs endeared by the uncommon ſweetneſs of his diſpoſition and manners, and by the mildneſs and benevolence which he, on every occaſion, ſhewed in the Court in which he ſo long and ſo honourably preſided.

COURT OF SESSION.

May 13. The Court of Seſſion gave judgment in a cauſe of general intereſt. William Dunn, merchant in Aberdeen, and others, managers of the Burgher Seceder meeting-houſe in Aberdeen, members of the congregation and contributors, brought an action before the Sheriff of Aberdeenſhire, againſt the Rev. Mr William Brunton, miniſter of that Burgher Congregation, for removing him from the manſe and meeting-houſe, and for having it found that the purſuers were entitled to the ſole poſſeſſion and diſpoſal of theſe heritable ſubjects. The purſuers denominated themſelves *Old-Light Men*, who were for adhering to the doctrines of the Seceſſion as they ſtood; and the Rev. Mr Brunton approved of the new declaration or preamable, which the Aſſociate Synod of the Burgher Seceſſion had prefixed to the formula of Burgher Seceders. The Sheriff pronounced an interlocutor, finding, "That as in this caſe, the defender, (Mr Brunton) has not denied that the purſuers (the managers) and thoſe who concur with them, are a majority of the congregation, and has not aſſerted that they are oppoſed by a majority of the contributors to, or of the heirs of the contributors to the expence of erecting the houſes in queſtion, and has not brought ſufficient evidence to ſhew that the call in his favour imported a right in him to the poſſeſſion of ſaid houſes for life, or until removed by the judicatories of the Burgher Seceders, the purſuers have a right to purſue and inſiſt in the conjoined proceſſes now depending; therefore, ſuſtains ſaid libel, and decerns againſt the defender, in terms of the original petition preſented for the purſuers, and alſo of the libel of removing at their inſtance, but finds no expences due."

Againſt the judgment of the Sheriff, Mr Brunton preſented a bill of advocation; and the cauſe being taken to report by the Lord Ordinary, very full informations were given in for both parties. The court, after conſidering the cauſe in a very deliberate manner, Affirmed the judgement of the Sheriff, removing Mr Brunton from the meeting-houſe and manſe, and finding the managers and other ſuers, who were a great majority of the contributors and congregation, intitled to the poſſeſſion and diſpoſal of theſe heritable ſubjects as their property.

Counſel for Mr Brunton, the Hon. Henry Erſkine, and Mr George Joſeph Bell; agent Mr John Peat.—Counſel for the purſuers, Mr Solicitor-General, Mr Archibald Campbell, and Mr Arch. Campbell, junior; agent, Mr Robert Sym, W. S.

15. The Court determined a queſtion between the Incorporation of Mary's Chapel, purſuers, and the Incorporation of Wrights and Maſons of South Leith, defenders. The amount of the action was to have it declared, that the members of Mary's Chapel have a right to work

work within the liberties of South Leith, and that the defenders have no right to prevent them from doing ſo. The Court decided, that the Incorporation of Wrights and Maſons of South Leith are intitled to prevent the Members of Mary's Chapel from working within the liberties of South Leith.

May 14. In the Court of Juſticiary, and next day in the Court of Seſſion, Charles Hope, Eſq. after preſenting his commiſſion, and having the uſual oaths adminiſtered to him, took his ſeat as Lord Advocate of Scotland, in place of Robert Dundas, Eſq. of Arniſton, appointed Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer.

Friday, May 21.

This morning the following convicts, who were under the ſentence of tranſportation, made their eſcape from Edinburgh priſon, by taking off the lock of the door that leads to the place of execution, and letting themſelves down to the ſtreet, viz. Andrew Holmes, for houſebreaking; James Stevens, ox-ſtealing; John Inglis, horſe-ſtealing; John Hunter, rag-ſtealing: Lauchlan Love, ſhopbreaking; William Maxwell, ſedition; Peter Anderſon, ſhop-breaking. They were purſued by a party of guard ſoldiers to Blackſordhill, but they there ſeparated, and got clear off.

Sporting.—Mr Barclay's horſe Tallyho is engaged in two very extraordinary matches this ſummer: firſt, at Montroſe, with Mr C. Graham's Wirley, for 400 guineas; and at Hamilton, with Mr Fletcher's Rolliker, for 1000 guineas, 12 ſtone each. What renders theſe engagements ſo very remarkable is, that each race is to be the uncommon length of ten miles.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

May 21. The General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh.—The Right Hon. the Earl of Leven, his Majeſty's Commiſſioner, attended by ſeveral Noblemen and Gentlemen, walked in proceſſion from the King's Arms Tavern to the High Church (the Dumfries-ſhire Militia and City Guard lining the ſtreet,) where his Grace was received by the Lord Provoſt and Magiſtrates in their robes.—The Rev. Principal Baird, one of the Miniſters of Edinburgh, the laſt Moderator, preached an excellent diſcourſe from Romans, 1ſt chap. 5th verſe, "by whom we have received Grace and Apoſtleſhip, for obedience to the faith among all nations for his name."

After Divine Service, his Grace the Commiſſioner went to the Aſſembly; when the members proceeded to chuſe a Moderator. The Rev. Dr Wm. Ritchie, Miniſter of Kilwinning, was unanimouſly elected. His Majeſty's Commiſſion and Warrant for One Thouſand Pounds, to be employed in propagating Chriſtian Religion in the Highlands of Scotland, were read. After which, his Grace the Commiſſioner, opened the Aſſembly with an elegant ſpeech from the Throne, to which the Moderator made a ſuitable reply.

The Rev. Principal Baird moved, that an humble addreſs be preſented to his Majeſty, on the preſent ſituation of public affairs. He ſaid it had been cuſtomary for the Aſſembly, but on no occaſion was it more neceſſary to preſent themſelves at the foot of the throne than the preſent. The Principal propoſed that the addreſs ſhould ſpecify the following remarkable occurrences ſince the meeting of laſt Aſſembly: The happy recovery of our Gracious Sovereign from his late dangerous illneſs, an event which had diffuſed univerſal joy over the whole Empire—the attempts of a few deluded people who ſtill harboured ſentiments of diſaffection, but whoſe number he believed to be very ſmall—The patience of the Poor, and the Liberality of the Rich, in the Scarcity which had viſited the country—the great meaſure of a Legiſlative Union between Great Britain and Ireland, which had been effected ſince they laſt met—and, laſtly, the ſignal ſucceſs which had attended his Majeſty's arms, particularly in the Baltic, under the command of Lord Nelſon, and in Egypt, under the late Sir Ralph Abercromby, to whoſe memory he paid a very neat and juſt eulogium, concluding with the words of his brave ſucceſſor, Gen. Hutchinſon.

Dr Carlyle ſeconded the motion, which, after a few words from Dr Hunter and Dr Bryce Johnſton, was unanimouſly agreed to, and a committee was appointed to prepare the addreſs, and anſwer his Majeſty's Letter.

23. The anſwer to his Majeſty's letter, and the Addreſs on the preſent ſituation of public affairs, were approved of by the Aſſembly, and his Grace the Commiſſioner requeſted to tranſmit them to his Majeſty.

The

The Aſſembly approved of the election of Mr Alexander Stevenſon, jun. as Clerk to the Truſtees of the Widows Fund, in room of his father, who has reſigned.

May 25. The Aſſembly took into conſideration a petition for the Synod of Dumfries, reſpecting the relevancy of objections to Janet Kirk being admitted as a witneſs in the cauſe of the Rev. Mr Nevilon, Miniſter of Penpont. Mr Nevilon appeared at the bar; and Mr George Cranſtown, Advocate, was heard as his Counſel. The Aſſembly unanimouſly found that the objections againſt the admiſſibility of Janet Kirk as a witneſs are irrelevant; and with reſpect to her credibility, the Aſſembly recommend to the Preſbytery to receive her teſtimony. The Aſſembly then proceeded to conſider the reference from the Preſbytery of Penpont, reſpecting the admiſſibility of Agnes Fergulſon as a witneſs. After hearing Counſel, the Aſſembly unanimouſly remitted it to the Preſbytery of Penpont, with inſtructions to reject the teſtimony of Agnes Fergulſon as an inadmiſſible witneſs.

26. Several Preſbyteries preſented reports of vagrant ſchoolmaſters and teachers within their bounds, which the Aſſembly remitted to a Committee to claſs.

Overtures from the Synods of Argyle, Galloway, Glaſgow, and Ayr, and from the Preſbytery of Caithneſs, relative to the exemption of the Clergy from the operation of the Income Tax, were preſented and read. The Aſſembly remitted theſe overtures to a committee.

27. The Aſſembly proceeded to conſider the overture reſpecting the more regular returns from Preſbyteries to overtures tranſmitted to them; and, after deliberating on the ſubject thereof, did, without a vote, judge it unneceſſary to tranſmit the overture; but enjoin the Preſbyteries of this Church to be regular in ſending up reports upon the overtures tranſmitted to them by the Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly next conſidered a proteſt and complaint of Mr Thomas Mill, late miniſter of Ladykirk, againſt the Committee of Bills, for refuſing to tranſmit a petition given in by him to the Aſſembly, praying to be heard againſt a ſentence of the Synod of Merſe and Tiviotdale, depoſing him from the office of the miniſtry, on account of non-reſidence, &c. becauſe the complainer was at that time unable to attend the Synod, by reaſon of indiſpoſition, and other cauſes. The petition was read, and Mr Mill was heard on the reaſons of his proteſt and complaint. A member of the Committee of Bills having given their reaſons for refuſing to tranſmit the petition, the Aſſembly unanimouſly approved of the conduct of the Committee of Bills, and refuſed to admit the petition as incompetent.

28. The Aſſembly had under conſideration Overtures from different Synods, &c. for enacting that no Miniſterial Charge ſhall be held along with a Profeſſorſhip in a College, unleſs it be in the town where the Univerſity or College is ſeated. This being a cauſe of much expectation, a great number of Members were preſent, and the Galleries were crowded with Ladies and Gentlemen between eight and nine in the morning. A very long and animated debate took place, when much Eloquence, Learning, and Argument, were diſplayed on both ſides of the Houſe.

The Aſſembly reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the whole Houſe; a motion was made and ſeconded, that the Committee report to the Aſſembly, "that the General Aſſembly, conſidering that the exiſting laws of the Church and State, make ſufficient proviſion for enſuring the reſidence of the miniſters of the Church of Scotland, and their faithful diſcharge of the duties of the paſtoral office, and having entire confidence, that the Preſbyteries of this Church will continue their vigilant attention to the execution of theſe laws, of which they are the Conſtitutional Guardians; Diſmiſs the Overtures." Another motion was made and ſeconded, That the following overture ſhall be tranſmitted by the Aſſembly to the ſeveral Preſbyteries of this Church, for their opinion, in order to its being afterwards enacted into a ſtanding law of this Church:

"Whereas it is of the utmoſt importance to the intereſts both of Religion and Learning, that the Miniſters of this Church ſhall conſtantly reſide in their ſeveral parihes, and in particular, that they ſhall not be called away from them at any ſtated or frequently returning intervals; and alſo, that Profeſſors in the Univerſities of Scotland, ſhall, during the ſeſſion of their Colleges, conſtantly reſide in the towns or cities where their reſpective Univerſities are ſituated; and whereas

whereas a contrary practice is in danger of prevailing, by the union of Profeſſorſhips with parochial charges, in ſituations in which the reſidence which both require cannot be given, according to the true meaning and deſign of the Laws of the Church and the State, which enjoin ſuch reſidence: It is therefore overtured, that it ſhall be enacted into a ſtanding law of this Church, that in all time coming, no Miniſter, who ſhall hereafter be admitted a Profeſſor in any of the Univerſities of Scotland, ſhall be allowed to retain his Parochial Charge, and no Profeſſor retaining his Profeſſorſhip, ſhall be ſettled as Miniſter of any pariſh, unleſs in either caſe ſuch charge or pariſh be either wholly or in part within the town or city where the College is ſituated, to which ſuch Profeſſorſhip belongs; and further, that the Preſbyteries of this Church ſhall take the moſt effectual means to carry this enactment into execution, according to its true meaning and deſign."

The Committee agreed to the following ſtate of a vote, Diſmiſs or Not; it being underſtood that if it carried Diſmiſs, the overtures ſhall be diſmiſſed accordingly, and if it carried Not, the ſecond motion ſhall be tranſmitted by the Aſſembly to the Preſbyteries as an overture The votes were then called, when there voted Diſmiſs 119, Not 67; Majority for diſmiſſing 52. Therefore the Committee are to report as their opinion to the Aſſembly, that the ſaid overtures ought to be Diſmiſſed.

LEITH HARBOUR.

LEITH, *May* 14, 1801.

This morning the Foundation Stone of the Wet Docks at Leith was laid by Robert Dundas of Melville, Eſq. Depute Grand Maſter, in abſence of the Right Hon. Charles, Earl of Dalkeith, Grand Maſter of Scotland.

An immenſe concourſe of the Brethren, and of the inhabitants of Edinburgh and Leith, attended to witneſs the ceremony of laying the Foundation of Buildings, from which ſo much benefit to the city of Edinburgh and its Port, and from which great National benefits are expected.

At a quarter before nine, the Proceſſion began at the Aſſembly Rooms, and proceeded along the Quay, acroſs the Draw Bridge to North Leith, and to the South-Eaſt corner of the outer wall of the firſt Dock, where the firſt ſtone was laid.

The Proceſſion was in the following order:

The Lord Provoſt, Magiſtrates, and Council of the City of Edinburgh, with the Magiſtrates of Leith, in their robes, preceded by the Inſignia of office.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The Brethren of the different Lodges in and near the City, according to Seniority.

The Maſters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Trinity Houſe, Leith.

The Proceſſion was cloſed by a great number of the moſt reſpectable Merchants and Inhabitants of Leith.

The whole was attended with ſeveral excellent bands of muſic.

When the Proceſſion arrived at the ſpot, the Subſtitute Grand Maſter placed a large Phial in the Stone, which contained all the preſent current coins in this country, with a number of beautiful Medals of the firſt characters of the preſent age, which were previouſly incloſed in chryſtal; and above the phial were placed two plates, on one of which the following Inſcription was engraved:

In the reign of the moſt Gracious Sovereign
GEORGE III.
and
Under the auſpices of the Right Hon.
WILLIAM FETTES,
Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh,
The HARBOUR of LEITH,
Tho' formed at a remote period,
and,
As Commerce in the courſe of ages increaſed,
often Repaired and Extended:
Yet being ſtill
Narrow and Incommodious,
ROBERT DUNDAS of Melville, Eſq.
In abſence of the Right Hon. CHARLES
Earl of Dalkeith,
Grand Maſter Maſon of Scotland,
Laid the Foundation-Stone
of theſe Docks;
In which the numerous veſſels arriving
from every quarter of the Globe,
Might receive ample and ſecure accommodation;
On the 14th day of May,
In the Year of our Lord, 1801,
And of the Æra of Maſonry, 5801:
John Rennie being Engineer.

May

May the Undertaking proſper,
by the bleſſing of
Almighty God.

On the other:

The Liſt of the preſent Town Council.
The Right Hon. HENRY DUNDAS,
Member for the City.
Magiſtrates of Leith.
Wet Dock Committee.
Engineers.
The Contractors for the Work.
The Grand Lodge of Scotland.
The Maſters and Wardens of the Trinity Houſe, Leith.

The Grand Maſter being then conducted by the late Grand Maſter, with the Depute and Subſtitute, and Grand Wardens, to the ſite of the ſtone, applied the Square, Level, and Plumb, to the different parts of it; and having given three knocks with the Mallet, ſaying, "May the GREAT ARCHITECT of the Univerſe enable us ſucceſsfully to carry on and finiſh the work of which we have now laid the foundation ſtone, and every other undertaking that may tend to the advantage of the City of Edinburgh and its harbour. May He be a guard and protection to them, and may they be long preſerved from peril and decay." The brethren gave three cheers.

The Wardens delivered to the Subſtitute the Cornucopia, and afterwards the Wine and Oil, which were ſucceſſively delivered to the Grand Maſter, who poured them on the ſtone, ſaying, "May the bountiful Hand of Heaven, ever ſupply this Country with abundance of Corn, Wine, and Oil, and all the neceſſaries and comforts of life." The Brethren having given three cheers, he addreſſed the Lord Provoſt as follows:

"My Lord Provoſt and Magiſtrates,

"It is with the higheſt ſatisfaction that I have now availed myſelf of the opportunity which the ſituation I have the honour to hold in the Grand Lodge of Scotland, has afforded me, of aſſiſting at the commencement of a work ſo eſſential to the welfare of this Metropolis, and which, I truſt, will contribute in an eminent degree to the extenſion of the Commerce and General Proſperity of this portion of the United Kingdom.

"The reſpect and eſteem which you enjoy in the community over which you have the honour to preſide, are the ſureſt pledge that nothing will be wanting on your part, to ſecond the efforts and fulfil the wiſhes of thoſe public-ſpirited individuals who have promoted this undertaking, and that the juſt expectations of the Legiſlature, to whoſe liberality you are alſo indebted, will not be diſappointed.

"It is impoſſible to contemplate the auſpicious period at which this work is begun, without the ſtrongeſt ſenſations of gratitude to that Providence, which has inſpired his Majeſty's Councils with temperate firmneſs, and his Fleets with irreſiſtable valour, to aſſert and maintain the juſt rights of his ſubjects on that element, which has ever been the ſcene of their triumphs, and the ſource of their envied proſperity and power. May the ſame bountiful Providence, in the bleſſings of an honourable and laſting Peace, ſecure to the merchants of this, and of every other port in the Britiſh Dominions, the free and uninterrupted enjoyment of their trade, and the well-earned fruits of induſtry and enterpriſing activity.

"In the name of the Craft of Free and Accepted Maſons, I have to offer our humble ſupplications to the SUPREME ARCHITECT of the Univerſe, that He will afford His protection to your Lordſhip, and your brethren in the Magiſtracy, and that you may continue to be the inſtruments, through Him, of promoting the happineſs and welfare of the community entruſted to your charge."

To which the Lord Provoſt made the following reply:

"MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR,

"LEITH has long had reaſon to be proud of the enterpriſe and ſucceſs of its Merchants and Sailors. The rapid increaſe of its commerce, has made it neceſſary to extend the harbour, and improve the conveniences for its trade. The plan of that able Engineer Mr Rennie, has been adopted, and I think it one of the happieſt events of my life, that I have the honour to fill the Chair of the City, when the Foundation Stone is laid of theſe extenſive WET DOCKS, which I conceive will not only be of great benefit to the city and its port, but to the country at large, as well as convenient for the admiſſion of large ſhips of his MAJESTY'S NAVY.

"I aſſure you, Sir, that it is highly gratifying to me and to my Fellow Citizens, that

that the firſt ſtone of this important work has been laid by you.

"Allow me to remark, that there appears a fortunate propriety in this ceremony being performed by the ſon of a man to whom our City, the Navy of BRITAIN, and the whole Empire, are under ſo many obligations.

"Permit me, in the name of the Magiſtrates and Council of the City of Edinburgh, to return our warmeſt thanks to you, to your Brethren, and the Gentlemen who have honoured us with their attendance upon this occaſion. And, may the Almighty Being, whom winds and ſeas obey, accompany this undertaking with His Bleſſing, and crown the work with ſucceſs!"

The ceremony concluded with a ſalute of twenty-one guns from the veſſels here, under the command of Capt. Clements of the Royal Navy.

The Proceſſion then returned in the ſame order as before, to the Aſſembly Rooms of Leith. They were attended by a large guard of Militia, who took care to have every thing conducted with good order; and probably there was never ſo numerous a proceſſion ſo happily carried on, there not being the ſmalleſt accident during the whole time of it.

The morning being fine, the whole formed a very grand and pleaſing ſpectacle, and was conducted with great propriety. The extenſion of the Trade and Commerce of the Sea Port of the Metropolis of Scotland, and the conſtant employment it will give to a number of induſtrious people, are delightful conſiderations at all times, but particularly ſo at preſent, when ſo many perſons have been ſuffering from the preſſure of the times.

For many years paſt the Trade of Leith has been greatly on the increaſe, and it muſt have afforded high ſatisfaction to every friend of his country, to contemplate the honourable and ſucceſsful exertions of our Merchants, who have embarked large Capitals in extenſive Commerce, thus adding opulence to the Metropolis, and placing her in a commercial point of view, far more reſpectable and eminent than ever was the caſe before.

By the improvement of the harbour, the ſhips from Hull, and other northern ports of England bound to the Baltic, will find very great and excellent accommodation by rendezvouſing at Leith; and indeed the whole of the Baltic trade, whether of England or Scotland, will be materially benefited. The ſhipping engaged in the Weſt India trade will alſo be greatly accommodated, as they will be enabled to come into the harbour without unloading part of their cargoes, as is now the caſe, which is attended with much trouble and expence.

For all theſe benefits and advantages we are indebted to the Public Spirit of the Magiſtrates and many reſpectable Merchants in Leith, who have applied themſelves with unceaſing exertions to promote this great national work.

BIRTHS.

At Madras, on the 2d December laſt, the Lady of Major Charles Gray, of the 75th regt. a ſon.

April 22. At Lochmaben, Mrs Capt. Brown, a ſon.

—. At Edinburgh, the Lady of Henry Howard, Eſq. of Corby Caſtle, Cumberland, a ſon.

May 3. At Broomhouſe, Mrs Logan, wife of George Logan, younger of Edrom, a ſon.

11. The Lady of Hugh Scott, Eſq. of Harden, a ſon, at Brighton.

—. At Logie Elphinſtone, Aberdeenſhire, the Lady of Robert Dalrymple Horn Elphinſtone, Eſq. a daughter.

17. At Lauriſton, the Lady of John Buchan Hepburn. Eſq of Letham, a ſon.

20. At Arbroath, the Lady of Captain Gilchriſt, 2d North Britiſh Militia, a daughter.

At London, the Lady of the Right Hon. George Canning, a ſon.

At London, the Hon. Lady Dallas, a daughter.

The Lady of Alexander Trotter, Eſq. at his houſe at Blackheath, a daughter.

At Egham, Lady Caroline Stuart Watley, a ſon.

At Slough, Bucks, the Lady of William Douglas, a ſon.

MARRIAGES.

April 20. At Ayr, Lieut Thomas Shaw, of the 10th (or Edinburgh) Regiment of Militia, to Miſs Margaret Limond, eldeſt daughter of Mr David Limond, writer

27. At the Manſe of Alva, Mr John Burns, Surgeon in Glaſgow, to Miſs Iſabella Duncan, daughter of the Rev. Mr John Duncan, minister of Alva.

—. At Pitillock, Mr Horſburgh, of Cupar, to Miſs Makgill, eldeſt daughter of the late George Makgill, Eſq. of Kemback.

29. At Edinburgh, James Hay of Drum, Eſq to the Right Hon. Lady Mary Ramſay, youngeſt daughter of the late, and ſiſter of the preſent Earl of Dalhouſie,

30 At Edinburgh Charles Hore Cogan, Eſq late of the 3d Foot Guards, to Miſs Mary

Mary Douglas, daughter of the late Lieut. Gen John Douglas, Colonel of the 5th Dragoon Guards.

In London, Henry Parnell, Eſq ſon to Sir John Parnell, Bart to the Right Hon. Miſs Dawſon, ſiſter to the Earl of Portarlington, and niece to the Marquis of Bute

At London, L. Williams, Eſq. of the Pay office, to Miſs Mary Barclay, daughter of J Barclay, Eſq of Tyndale Place.

At London, Mr J R. Vincent, of the Eaſt India Houſe, to Miſs Margaret Gilchriſt.

At London, Melbourn Weſt, Eſq of Hammerſmith, to Miſs Cromie, only daughter of Sir Michael Cromie, Bart

Mr William Croſhaw, of Blackfriars, to Miſs Elizabeth Mowet, of Chelſea.

At Bath, the Rev. Daniel Lyſons, to Miſs Hardy, eldeſt daughter of the late Col. Hardy.

Mr Edward Pearſon, merchant, of Liverpool, to Miſs Lucy Heſketh, ſiſter to Sir Thomas Dalrymple Heſketh, Bart. of Rufford Hall.

At Liverpool, Mr Robert Gladſtone, merchant, to Miſs Steuart, daughter of Adam Steuart, Eſq.

At Lullingſtone Caſtle, Kent, the ſeat of Dixon Dyke, Bart. Alexander Macleod, of Muiravonſide, Eſq. late of Jamaica, to Miſs Dalmahoy, ſiſter of the late Rev. Sir John Hay Dalmahoy.

Charles Hamilton, jun. Eſq. of Hamwood, to Miſs Tighe, daughter of the late William Tighe. Eſq. of Roſſam.

Lately, Mrs Wilkinſon, the rich Oxfordſhire widow, of *eighty*, to Mr Connor Field, an Hibernian, of *twenty-five*.

Sir John Arundel, of St John's Hall, Huntingdon, to Miſs Sarah Anne Sharpe, only daughter of William Sharpe, Eſq. of Doctors Commons.

May 9. At Strabane, Colonel Robert Anſtruther, of the Loyal Tay Fencibles, to Miſs Nairne, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel Nairne of the Breadalbane Fencibles.

18. At the Ducheſs of Gordon's, in Piccadilly, Miſs Maxwell, ſecond daughter of Sir William Maxwell, Bart. of Monreith, to James Du Pre, Eſq. of Wilton Park, Buckinghamſhire.

19. At Leith, Alexander Scott, Eſq. Purſer of the Iris, to Miſs Phoebe Forbes, daughter of the Rev. Mr William Forbes, late miniſter of Fordun.

DEATHS.

On his paſſage to the iſland of Jamaica, in February laſt, Mr John Barr, eldeſt ſon of Mr John Barr, merchant, Port-Glaſgow.

March 14. In Egypt, Lieutenant Tomlin Campbell, of the 92d Highland Regiment, ſecond ſon of the Hon. John Campbell, of Jamaica; he was mortally wounded by a cannon ball, charging at the head of the grenadiers; he was a promiſing young man, beloved by his whole corps.

15. In Egypt, Lieut.-Col. Charles Erſkine of the 92d Regiment, eldeſt ſon to James Erſkine, Eſq of Cardroſs, in conſequence of the wounds he received in the battle of the 13th, when fighting at the head of that regiment.

March 21. Enſign Lorne Campbell, of the 3d Guards, who fell in the action of the 21ſt March, near Alexandria; he was the youngeſt ſon of Sir James Campbell of Inverneil

— In Egypt, Col. Dutens, in the deſperate battle on the 21ſt March; he was the only ſon of the late Peter Dutens, Eſq. of Leiceſter-ſquare, and grandſon of the late John Callander, Eſq. of Craigforth; a young man of the moſt engaging and amiable diſpoſition, and the only ſurviving hope of a much reſpected family.

April 1. At Dundee, Mr Thomas Smart, Architect.

5. At Aberdeen, Miſs Elizabeth Leſlie, eldeſt daughter of Capt. James Leſlie, late of the 15th regt. of foot, aged 17.

6. At the Citadel of Leith, Mr John Hunter, merchant.

—. Mrs General Campbell, at Duddingſtone Houſe.

—. At the Manſe of Buittle, Mr Geo. Maxwell, ſtudent of divinity.

8. At Dunbar, Mrs Catharine Meek, wife of Captain John Clark, Marines.

9. At Edinburgh, aged 22, and much regretted, Miſs Margaret Cunningham, daughter of Mr Thomas Cunningham, painter.

12. At Edinburgh, after a long and painful illneſs, which ſhe bore with exemplary fortitude and reſignation, Mrs Margaret Poole, wife of Mr Matthew Poole.

13. At Rochampton, Mrs Chriſtie, wife of Major-General N. Chriſtie.

—. At Edinburgh, Mr John Robertſon, Accountant.

14. At Forres, in the county of Moray, Mrs Elizabeth Dawſon, relict of of the late Alexander Tulloch, of Tannachie, Eſq.

15. At Dunſe, Mr Rober Willis, in the 79th year of his age.

16. At Dumfries, Alexander Copland, Eſq of King's Grange, ſurgeon there.

—. At Edinburgh, Miſs Harriet Flint, youngeſt daughter of the late Col Flint.

21. At Paiſley, Mr James Walkinſhaw, merchant.

April

April 22. At Kirkcaldy, Mr Robert Elliot, writer there.

—. At Clayton, James Stark, ſecond ſon to the late Harry Stark, Eſy. of Peaſſes.

—. At Fochabers, Mrs Tod.

23. At Greenock, Major Duncan Campbell, (Aſkomell,) late of the 5th, or firſt battalion, Argyleſhire, fencible regiment.

26. At Glaſgow, Miſs Iſobella Jamieſon, daughter of the late John Jamieſon, Eſq.

27. At St Andrews, the Hon. Mrs Nairne, widow of the late Hon. Col. John Nairne.

—. In an advanced age, the Hon Frederick Vane, ſecond ſon of Henry the firſt Earl of Darlington.

27. At Glaſgow, Mr W. Batchin, manufacturer

28. At Pathhead, the Rev. Mr J. Thomſon.

29. At London, Mrs Gibſon, relict of Dr John Gibſon.

30. At Donaghadee, Mrs Macbride, ſiſter to the late Admiral Macbride.

—. At Edinburgh, Mrs Catharine Inglis, daughter of the deceaſed Mr Robert Inglis, writer to the ſignet.

May 1. At Hamilton, Robert Frame, Eſq. Commiſſary of Hamilton and Campſie.

—. At her houſe near Muſſelburgh, Mrs Mary Ronald, relict of the late Rev. Cornelius Lundie, Kelſo.

—. At Edinburgh, Mrs Campbell, widow of Duncan Campbell, Eſq. of Southhall.

2. At her houſe in Prince's ſtreet. Mrs Janet Dunmore Napier, of Ballikinrain.

3. Mr Henry Gray, merchant in Glaſgow.

4. At Elie, Mr Wm. Wood, merchant.

5. At York, Lieut.-Colonel Catheart Taylor, late of the 3d Dragoon Guards.

—. At London, Lieut.-Colonel Fraſer, of the 72d regiment.

7. At Edinburgh, John M'Dowell, Eſq. late of Woolmet.

8. At the Manſe of Kirkoſwald, Ayrſhire, in the 85th year of her age, Mrs Margaret Wodrow, wife of the Rev. Mr M. Biggar, and daughter of the Author of the Church Hiſtory of Scotland.

9. At Edinburgh, Miſs Margaret Purdie, daughter of the late Mr James Purdie, Rector of the Grammar School Glaſgow.

—. At Edinburgh, Alexander Taylor, Eſq. of Naſſau Providence, Member of the Houſe of Aſſembly there.

10. Mr William Cunningham, merchant in Belfaſt.

May 13. At Kirkmichael, Ayrſhire, the Rev. Mr John Ramſay.

—. At Edinburgh, Mr John Gilchriſt, at the advanced age of 83, and while in the ſervice of his King and Country, into which he entered in 1738, the year in which his preſent Majeſty was born. He has left four ſons and four daughters, (the former of whom are all in the Army and Navy.

15. At Edinburgh, Henry Scott, Eſq. of Bellford.

—. At Crieff, Dr James Young of Balmanno, formerly of the Naval Hoſpital at Antigua.

17 At Belhaven, Lieutenant-Colonel Steill, late Major of the 24th foot, and only ſon of Col. Steill.

—. At London, Dr Heberden, Phyſician, in the 91ſt year of his age.

18. At Edinburgh, Miſs Jane Gray Chriſtie, eldeſt daughter of Capt. Chriſtie, of the 1ſt North Britiſh Militia.

18. At Edinburgh, Mrs Douglas, wife of R. Douglas, Eſq. of the Royal Navy.

—. At London, Andrew Stewart, Eſq. of Caſtle Milk and Torrance, Member of Parliament for Weymouth, and Joint Principal Keeper of the Regiſter of Saſines in Scotland. This Gentleman diſtinguiſhed himſelf highly in the celebrated Douglas cauſe, as chief Agent for the Duke of Hamilton. In conſequence of ſome reflections thrown upon the character of Mr Stuart, and his conduct in that memorable cauſe, a duel took place between him and the preſent Lord Thurlow. After the final deciſion of that extraordinary cauſe, Mr Stuart addreſſed a ſeries of letters to the Earl of Mansfield, whoſe arguments and eloquence principally contributed to produce that deciſion. The letters are written with great force, ingenuity, and acumen. Nothing in our language can be compared with them for addreſs, eloquence, and ſeverity, except the letters of JUNIUS.

20. At London, Mrs Abercromby of Glaſſa.

22. At Edinburgh, Miſs Ann Scott, daughter of the deceaſed Walter Scott, Eſq. writer to the ſignet.

At Cliſton, lately, aged 24, the Lady of Dr Sinnot; a very large property, in conſequence, devolves to the Society for the Propagation of the Goſpel in Foreign Parts, which was bequeathed to her with this reſervation, in the event of her dying before ſhe attained the 25th year of her age.

Errata. In the Latin Inſcription, p. 312. l. 1. for *Diem*, read *Dum*. l. 10. for *Ingenui*, read *Ingenii*.